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THE FRENCH AND THEIR AFFAIRS.

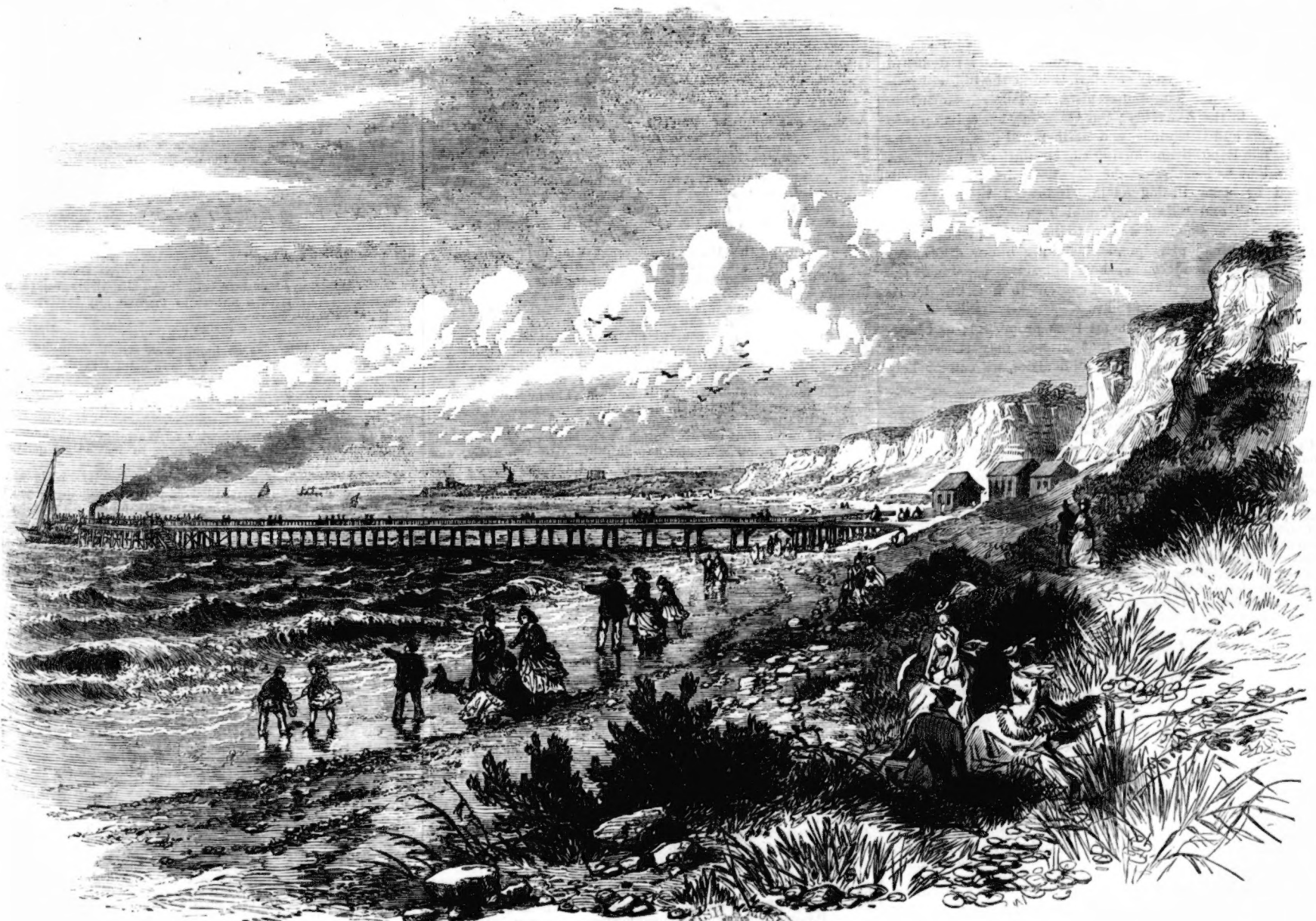
"Ilka land has its ain laugh," and every nation has its own way of managing national affairs—each people, of course, being presumably the fittest judges of what is the best way for them. Admitting these postulates to the fullest extent, it is yet hard to believe that the French are showing much wisdom just now in the management of their affairs. Confusion reigns in the country: the finances are in disorder; trade, commerce, industry are out of gear; political institutions are literally in abeyance; the army is disorganised; the relations of social life are dislocated, every man suspecting his neighbour of sinister designs against the State or himself; and the way the Assembly takes to bring order out of all this chaos is to make confusion worse confounded by dissensions within itself, chiefly on personal or party considerations! Each member or section of the House pursues some particular crotchet or object of personal ambition, while none seem capable of self-abnegation for the sake of public good. That grandly simple idea of Duty, of which the life of our great Duke of Wellington was so eminent an exemplification, appears to be beyond the grasp of the Gallic mind. Multiform divisions and subdivisions prevail in the Assembly. Monarchists and Republicans, Right and Left, Right Centre and Left Centre, Divine-right Legitimists on the one extremity and Divine-right Republicans on the other, all are at loggerheads each with the other, agreeing in nothing save to prolong and embitter their differences, and in striving to win individual prominence. The Assembly, indeed, in its collective capacity is but an illustration of the self-seeking idiosyncrasies of its several

members. As *they* cannot sink self, so *it* cannot rise equal to the emergencies of the time. It has ceased to be capable of useful work, if, indeed, it ever really was so; it cannot, by reason of its incurable dissensions, give permanent institutions to the country; yet it clings to existence, steadfastly refusing to decree its own dissolution, mainly, we suspect, because many—perhaps most—of the members feel that dissolution would relegate them to the obscurity whence they unexpectedly sprang last February.

This is a very sad state of things, but it is not difficult of explication. In fact, it is the natural outcome of the French character, which begets in each individual a desire to rule; in none a disposition to obey. Our neighbours are a nation of actors; they are always attitudinising, eagerly watching the effect of their posturing upon observers; they live upon applause—or, at least, upon notoriety; and, in order to secure what he deems his due share thereof, each man wishes to play the leading rôle. As vanity is the base of the average Frenchman's nature, so a craving for its gratification is his controlling passion. No one doubts his own qualification for the highest positions, and no one for a moment conceives it possible that his ideas may be erroneous. Hence the Frenchman's disinclination to play second fiddle or to abate one jot of the infallibility he claims for his opinions. Each man deems himself indispensable to France, and his theories the only ones on which France can be governed. As is the individual, so is the nation. France has attained the point beyond which human perfectibility goeth not. She is the centre and source of civilisation. It is her province to

give law to the world and to teach the nations how to live. And as for other peoples, it is their business to admire and to imitate, but not to dream of rivalling, La Grande Nation. This inordinate vanity it is that has dictated French policy for generations past; this it is that has made France quick to take offence at the increased wellbeing, power, influence, and importance of her neighbours; this prompted the protracted wars of Louis XIV. and of Napoleon I.; this inspired French jealousy of Russian influence in the East and of Austrian predominance in Italy; this dictated the opposition of France to the completion of Italian unity, and sent the chassepots to Mentana; this begot her jealousy of Prussian aggrandisement after 1866, and produced that craving for the Rhine frontier which led to the declaration of war last year, and to all the disasters that followed; and it is this same vanity, individual and national, that causes the confusion, bordering on anarchy, that now reigns in the councils of France. It has brought many humiliations upon the country; it is the chief cause of her present troubles; and we fear it is still uncured.

M. Thiers himself, perhaps the most disinterested public man in France, is not free from the national fault. Indeed, he is the very embodiment of the leading characteristics of his countrymen, as he has been one of the ablest and most eloquent defenders of their national policy. And hence his difficulties with the Assembly. Since his appointment to the position of Chief of the Executive Power, M. Thiers has been indispensable to France, and yet his relations with the majority of the Assembly have decidedly been those of an ill-assorted union. It is a case of incompatibility of temper,



CLACTON-ON-SEA, THE NEW WATERING PLACE.

perhaps in consequence of too great a resemblance between the characters of the parties. The "Sovereign Assembly" and the Chief of the Executive Power are at constant variance, and yet they must jog on together, because no man has hitherto appeared capable of taking M. Thiers's place, or of whom the Assembly would be less jealous than they are of him. Though "sovereign," the Assembly has heretofore, as a general rule, had to yield to M. Thiers. A threat of resignation on his part has either stayed action or produced a compromise on disputed points. But this state of things cannot last. It is not becoming to either party. The Assembly—perhaps France—is pretty sure to become tired of listening to the praises, sometimes self-uttered, of this modern Aristides, and of being made to feel that there is but one man equal to the exigencies of the time. M. Thiers may repeat his threat once too often; the Assembly may take him at his word, and put another—probably a worse—man in his place. The situation altogether is anomalous, and, like all makeshift arrangements, contains within itself the elements of disintegration. The "pact of Bordeaux" cannot stand. The Assembly itself is incapable of governing; it is too numerous, too divided, and too clumsy a body. It must delegate that duty to other hands, and with the duty it must delegate a portion of its power. Hence arise two nearly co-ordinate bodies, neither having absolute control over the other; and when differences arise, as differences have arisen, a deadlock occurs, to undo which there is no key. The Assembly dare not dismiss M. Thiers, and M. Thiers cannot dissolve the Assembly and appeal to the country. The only practical escape from the difficulty is M. Thiers's resignation and the Assembly's acceptance thereof, which may possibly happen. But, in existing circumstances, what is likely to follow? Utter anarchy; perhaps a second civil war, aggravated by the presence of a foreign army in the country. Save M. Thiers, there is no man in France just now who can command sufficient confidence to enable him to control events; and M. Thiers, by his petulance and too great self-appreciation—by being too much of a Frenchman, in fact—has done a great deal to impair his influence, and to irritate, by humiliating, the Assembly, or, at all events, a powerful section thereof.

M. Rivet's proposition for prolonging the powers of the Chief of the Executive, with the title of President of the Republic, was an attempt to solve the difficulty. But, as originally proposed, it settled too much—to please the Monarchists, for it assumed the Republic definitively; and as modified in M. Vitet's report, it settled too much also, but in another direction—to please the Republicans, for it assumed the constituent powers of the Assembly, which is precisely what the Republicans deny. On the other hand, the bill founded on M. Vitet's report settled too little—to content M. Thiers, for it did not definitively assume M. Thiers as the President of the Republic. In fact, all parties were dissatisfied with the bill; and no one party is sufficiently strong or sufficiently united to either disentangle, or break through, the difficulties that perplex all. Further modifications have been made so as to content M. Thiers, but no essential change is effected, and it is doubtful if any party will be really satisfied, though the bill will probably be passed. The Monarchists, we believe, constitute a majority in the Assembly; but then they are split up into Legitimists and Orleanists, and neither will give way to the other. The Republicans, having the strength of a fixed principle, might be masters of the situation; but they, too, are divided by some ill-defined line indicated by the words "Moderate" and "Extreme," and both sections—Frenchmen-like—seem too much wedded to their particular crotchets to grasp a broad principle, and, sinking minor differences and individual predilections, show themselves capable of the courage of their convictions and content to work out details in subordination to a grand idea.

Altogether, the situation is far from promising; and however warmly we may hope that France may successfully work her way out of existing difficulties, we cannot help entertaining fears of the result.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.

CLACTON-ON-SEA, the new watering-place on the estuary of the Thames, is surely well named, since "clacking," and very industriously doing little else, are the chief occupations of the frequenters of watering-places. This is the first year of what may be called the public life of Clacton-on-Sea as a place of holiday resort; and a few weeks ago a trip by steam-boat from London to Clacton was organised, of which we copy the following account from the columns of a daily contemporary:—"Running down the Thames on a favourable tide, in a luxuriously appointed and provisioned boat, with music playing and ladies lending us grace and beauty, we spoke of Clacton-on-Sea as a complete haven of desire; sneering offhand at Brighton as the paradise of cockneys, at Margate and Ramsgate as hotbeds of vulgarity, at Scarborough as too fast; describing this place as too dull, that too bracing, and the other altogether out of the question. In short, it was evident on the face of it there was but one watering-place left worthy of a moment's consideration, and that was Clacton-on-Sea. Had anyone been there? Apparently not. Would there be more than—say, a thousand inhabitants? A thousand! Well, it was hard to say to a hundred or so; but (although it turned out afterwards that none of the critics had ever been there) it was a charming seaside resort, that needed but to be known to be appreciated.

"At length a plan is produced showing that Clacton-on-Sea is in the bend of a gentle bay and in the centre of a bold tongue of land having the Naze for its northern and Brightlingsea its southern extremity, Holland Point and Eastness being the eastern and western horns of the bay. From the same source we learn that Colchester is sixteen miles distant, and Walton-on-the-Naze nine and a half; that there is a village called Great Clacton one mile and a quarter from the coast, and another, known as Little Clacton, three miles and a half. The plan further shows us that the nearest railway station is Weeley, five miles and a half away. But this is a mere key plan, in the corner! There is in the foreground a map of Clacton-on-Sea, gaily coloured, and to it we turn our more eager attention. We have been warned by one gentle-

man, who knows all about it, that this design is in the main a picture of what is hoped Clacton will ere long be; but in our lightness of heart we pay no attention to so essential a consideration. The 'beach without groynes for bathing and riding' stretches miles along the coast; the 'pleasure-grounds' and 'promenades' are green with promise; the 'sites for villas' are imposing and pleasant. The long flat reaches of the river, rapid as the boat was running, passed but too slowly; the Great Eastern steam-ship, clearly seen in the Medway, had no charms for us; and the beautiful blue open water was nothing in comparison to the Clacton-on-Sea which we had conjured up. After six hours' steaming the boat heads landward, and for the first time the Essex coast lifts its head above the water. A long line of lowish cliffs is before us, partly covered with vegetation. There are square martello towers to the left, and in the bay to the right a plank seems to run out into the sea for the convenience of the coastguard boats. As the Albert Edward approaches nearer, men, women, and children are seen on the plank; the plank grows into a pier; vehicles and horses are made out under the cliff, and a house or two is visible behind the coast. Impatient at this deviation from our course, we grumble, and demand to proceed to Clacton-on-Sea without further delay. The passengers who have more practical sense and knowledge than the rest of us smile. This is Clacton-on-Sea; which learning, we all smile together and enjoy the joke.

"That Clacton-on-Sea will by-and-by become a popular watering-place we soon became convinced. It has a clean, gradually sloping beach, with hard sands, along which you may walk or ride for miles, right and left. The soil is thoroughly dry, and there are the somewhat unusual advantages of plentiful and pure spring water close at hand. It appears that a few families have for years been in the habit of using the spot, under the name of 'Clacton Beach,' or 'Ocean Place,' as a sequestered bathing-place; and so out of the way of the world has it been considered that the use of bathing-machines was regarded as superfluous. Half a century ago some members of the Society of Friends selected Clacton Beach as the most desirable site for a contemplated retreat, but the difficulty they experienced in obtaining property compelled them to abandon that portion of the coast. It was thus they founded Walton-on-the-Naze. There is much pretty country scenery immediately inland, and the excursions, let loose from the Albert Edward, roamed through the rich and nearly ripe cornfields, along the cliffs or beach, and away into the country lanes. Clacton is sheltered from the north-east by Holland Point. The shore is a little too uniform for picturesqueness, but the beach mostly presents a firm surface of clean sand and fine pebbles, and beyond and below ordinary low water there is a sandy flat that is rarely uncovered. The tide recedes but about 100 ft., and the place, therefore, nearly always seems to be blessed with high water. The cliffs are not more than 30 ft. high, composed of London clay, capped with sand and gravel from 15 ft. to 20 ft. thick. Near Clacton the Colne, Blackwater, and Crouch debouch, and the position of the local channels is such that a constant appearance of shipping enlivens the scene."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In the Assembly, on Monday, M. Vitet read the Report of the Committee upon the question of prolonging the powers vested in M. Thiers. He submitted the following bill:—

The Assembly, considering that it has the right to use constituent powers, the essential attribute of national sovereignty and of the imperious duties which that sovereignty entails, and which events have alone prevented it from fulfilling up to the present; considering that until this duty has been accomplished the interests of labour, commerce, and industry require that the existing institutions should be ended with at least a relative stability; considering that a more precise appellation and a prolongation of the authority of the Chief of the Executive may have the effect of contributing to this result, and that a formal continuance of the powers vested in the Chief of the State takes away the responsibility of the Assembly, while at the same time expressly reserving its sovereign rights:

The Assembly decrees that:—

Clause 1. The Chief of the Executive Power shall assume the title of President of the French Republic, and shall continue to exercise that power under the authority of the Assembly.

Clause 2. The President of the Republic shall promulgate the laws transmitted to him by the President of the Assembly, shall ensure and watch over the execution of the laws, reside at the seat of the Assembly, and take part in its deliberations on giving notice beforehand of his intention to do so. He shall appoint and dismiss the Ministers, who will be responsible to the Assembly. Each of his decrees will be countersigned by a Minister.

Clause 3. The President of the Republic is responsible to the Assembly.

After the reading of the bill M. Dufaure, the Minister of Justice, ascended the tribune, and, speaking in the name of the Council of Ministers, moved that the following paragraph should be added to the considerations in the preamble of the bill, and that the bill should for that purpose be referred back to the Committee:—"The Assembly, taking, moreover, into consideration the eminent services rendered to the country by M. Thiers during the last six months, and the securities which his name offers for the confidence of the country, decrees," &c. On Wednesday M. Vitet announced that the Committee on the motion for prolonging the powers of M. Thiers accepted M. Dufaure's amendment; and M. Dufaure then stated that the Government accepted the bill as introduced by M. Vitet. Several amendments and counter-proposals were afterwards withdrawn, and the Assembly adopted the first consideration of the preamble by 433 votes against 227.

A very violent scene occurred in the Assembly on the 24th ult. In the course of a discussion on the question of immediately dissolving the National Guard, M. Thiers, in opposing the proposition, addressed some taunting remarks to the Right, and terrible uproar followed. It is said M. Thiers wrote out his resignation directly he left the House, but was persuaded to withhold it by some members. Finally, an amendment proposed by General Ducrot, that the dissolution of the National Guard should proceed *pari passu* with the reorganisation of the army, was accepted by both the Government and the Chamber.

The confusion which reigns in the National Assembly is producing its natural result in the spread of an uneasy and almost unexplainable feeling throughout all classes of Frenchmen. The air is filled with sinister rumours, and everybody is saying to everybody else that "something is going to happen," in the vaguest kind of way. In fact, the political atmosphere is just in the condition which has so often signalled or prefaced the recurrence of social convulsions amongst our neighbours.

General Faidherbe has resigned his seat in the Assembly on the ground that that body, in resolving to declare itself constituent, exceeds its powers.

M. Larcy, the Minister of Public Works, is said to have resigned.

M. Jules Favre has returned to his practice at the French Bar, and the other day was engaged in the first case he has appeared in since his retirement from the Ministry. The case was of no public interest.

The prohibition of the Minister of the Interior notwithstanding, the Republicans in several towns are resolved to celebrate the first anniversary of the fall of the Empire and the establishment of the Republic on Monday next.

The Court of Assizes at Riom has acquitted the leader of the band of Communists who broke into the Prefecture of Thiers, in Auvergne, in February last.

A real check has been given to the hostile movements of the Arab tribes in Algeria; but, although the limits of the insurrection are restricted, the French troops will in all probability find sufficient occupation for some time to come.

An official note which has been sent to the Italian Government by M. de Remusat announces that France does not intend to introduce any modifications in the customs' conventions with Italy or other Powers without such modifications being adopted after mutual consideration.

SPAIN.

An amnesty was promulgated on Wednesday, the preamble to which says:—"The Government knows the secret resources of the adversaries of the present political régime, is fully aware of their weakness and powerlessness, and is in itself sufficiently strong to put down any revolt against the Constitution or the dynasty." The amnesty extends to all persons condemned for political offences of every kind committed in Spain. Among political offences are included attempts to falsify or exercise pressure upon the free expression of the electoral suffrages. Liability before the civil courts for acts contravening the law remains unremitted. Decrees have also been issued effecting a saving of 3,622,025 pesetas in the special expenses of the Ministry for War, and reorganising the staff of the Ministry for the Colonies.

An irruption of Carlists is considered so imminent that three columns of troops have been dispatched for the northern frontier from Pampeluna and two from San Sebastian, and the Civic Guard is being concentrated to co-operate with the army.

The provincial Governors have received directions from Senor Zorrilla to set aside portions of the cemeteries in all the towns, provisionally, for the use of non-Catholics until new regulations shall have been made by the Cortes.

All vessels arriving at Spanish ports from London will be subjected to quarantine, and those from Ireland and Scotland to a quarantine of three days' duration, on account of cholera. Yellow fever being prevalent in Cuba, the same measures of precaution will be adopted with regard to vessels coming from that place.

ITALY.

A Roman telegram states that the King of Italy will probably appoint Count Selopis to represent him as one of the arbitrators on the Alabama claims.

A correspondent in Rome gives an account of disturbances which occurred there on the 23rd and 24th ult. On the former day the Pope had reigned exactly as long, day for day, as St. Peter. His partisans determined to celebrate this event by a special service at St. John Lateran. By way of counter-demonstration, the Liberals assembled outside the church, and when the congregation came out waved tricolour flags, and shouted "Long live Victor Emmanuel!" The police, however, interfered, dispersed the crowd, and the day's proceedings ended. On the morrow the Papal demonstration was continued, a special service taking place at the church of the Jesuits in the square of the Minerva. A crowd collected outside the building, but it was dispersed by the police, and some persons were arrested. Among these was a Roman named Tognetti, whose brother was executed under the Papal régime for participation in a revolutionary movement. As soon as this became known another crowd formed, which went to the head police office, and clamoured for Tognetti's release. Thereupon the police sallied out, and a collision occurred with the people, in which shots were fired. Three persons were wounded, and on the following morning one of them died.

GERMANY.

Several Berlin newspapers contain articles pointing out, in almost identical terms, that the present doubtful attitude of the French National Assembly appears to foreshadow the possibility of a weakening of the position held by M. Thiers, and therefore necessarily lessens the confidence of the German Government in the fulfilment of France's treaty obligations.

The reply of the Bavarian Minister of Public Worship to the proposal of the Bishops for the suppression of the Placet announces that the proposal is declined. The Minister defines the position of the Government in regard to Church questions, reviews the course hitherto taken by the Bishops, and shows that their conduct is opposed to the Constitution. The Government will protect the Catholics in all acts which are in conformity with the Constitution.

Cholera still continues its ravages at Königsberg, 329 persons having died from the 18th to the 25th ult. On the 28th there were 100 cases of cholera at Königsberg and 29 deaths. On the following day there were 79 cases and 50 deaths. Sixteen persons have died of cholera at Altona between the 19th and 26th. At Elbing there have been 20 deaths.

AUSTRIA.

A Vienna paper announces, as an outcome of the late Imperial conferences at Gastein, the formation of a peace league for Europe, and that not only Austria, Germany, and Italy have given in their adhesion, but that Russia is likely to join the movement.

The Austrian Government has taken the initiative in meeting the wishes of the inhabitants of the Italian Tyrol for greater power of self-government. The Governor of the Tyrol has been instructed to confer with German and Italian men of note with this object. It appears, however, that the persons consulted in the Tyrol have made demands which are inconsistent with the unity of that province, and the development of the Government's views has consequently for the present been prevented.

ROUMANIA.

The *New Prussian (Cross) Gazette* of Wednesday evening says:—"We learn that on the reassembling of the Roumanian Chamber the Government of Prince Charles will bring forward a bill to settle the amount of compensation which it in principle admits to be due to the public creditors. The Government will probably ascertain for certain beforehand that the contents of the proposed bill will be of a nature to prevent any further claims being put forward."

GREECE.

The powder magazines at Lamia were struck, on the 22nd ult., by lightning. Great destruction was caused in the town, the inhabitants leaving it in large numbers.

THE UNITED STATES.

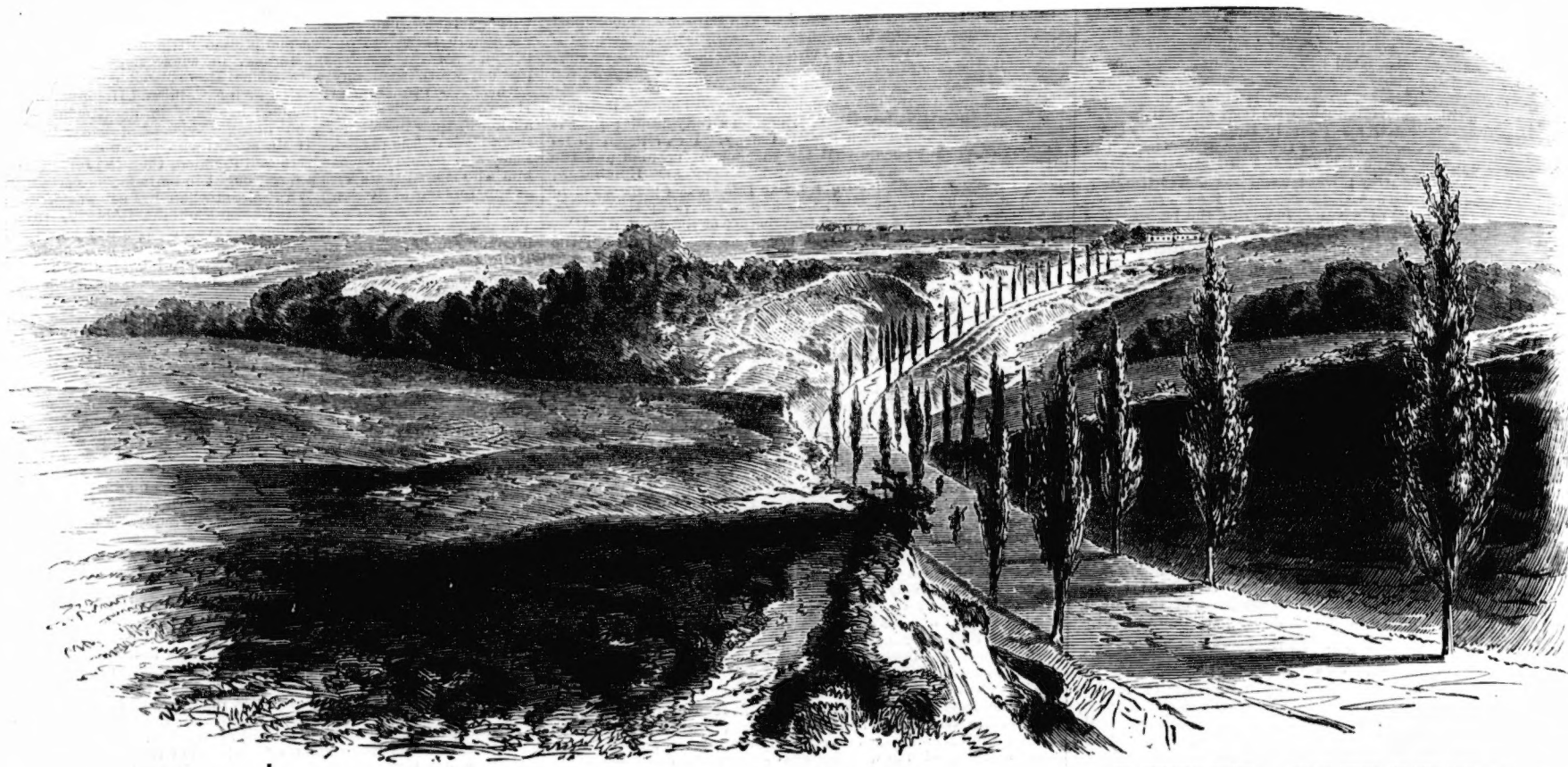
The British and United States Governments have chosen Count Luigi Corti, the Italian Minister at Washington, as third arbitrator under the Treaty of Washington, to decide those questions not comprised in the Alabama claims.

A railway collision has taken place near Boston, in which twenty persons have been killed and thirty wounded; and at New York there has been another explosion on board a steamer, by which seventy persons have been killed and wounded.

THE STOWMARKET EXPLOSION.—The persons watching the ruined works of the Patent Safety Gun-Cotton Company (Limited) are now reduced to a few policemen. There is still a considerable quantity of gun-cotton on the works, but it is either in a damp or unfinished state, and is not considered to present any elements of danger. The magazine containing gun-cotton used for sporting purposes is almost uninjured. The teachers and part of the congregation at the Independent Chapel at Stowmarket have gone into mourning as a mark of respect for the memory of the late Mr. Edward Prentice, who was superintendent of the Sunday school. The fund raised for the relief of the sufferers from the explosion now amounts to over £2200. Among the recent contributors have been Lord Henniker, £25; Mr. Eustace Prentice, managing director of the company, £25; Mr. Manning Prentice, £25; the Duke of Grafton, £50; Earl Ducie, £5; Messrs. J. and J. Colman, Norwich, £52 10s. &c. The repair of the roofs and windows of houses injured by the explosion is still proceeding, but the town has not yet quite regained its ordinary appearance, and it is feared that there will be a certain amount of distress in the winter, as the works of the Stowmarket Paper Manufacturing Company are also closed. These latter works are situated at no great distance from the scene of the explosion, and sustained considerable injury from the concussion. At the resumed inquiry into the explosion, last Saturday, Mr. Eustace Prentice, the managing director, was examined. His evidence opens a new view of this unfortunate occurrence. Free sulphuric acid had been placed in the cotton sent to Upnor Castle, and as that could not have been done by accident a shocking crime must have been committed, supposing, as alleged, a similar impurity was the cause of the Stowmarket catastrophe. Mr. Prentice said he had no suspicion of any person. The inquiry was again adjourned. A correspondent says it has been found that the tower of Stowmarket parish church has been affected by the explosion, although it is a very massive piece of masonry. The windows of the church are also found to be more injured than was at first anticipated; nearly all of them, however, are in course of reconstruction.

MORE ABOUT HELIGOLAND.

The amusements of the people are few in number and simple in character. Like fishermen in general, the Heligolanders have an unconcealed fondness for ardent spirits. They readily drink



MOSKAU FARM.

ST. HUBERT FARM.

ROAD FROM GRAVELOTTE TO METZ.

REMINISCENCES OF THE FIGHTING BEFORE METZ: THE BATTLE-FIELD OF GRAVELOTTE.

as much as they can get, and this means that they often drink more than is good for them. On several nights of the week, and on Sunday night in particular, the young men and maidens frequent two establishments in the Upper Land, where dancing is carried on with a vigour which proves that the souls of the performers are in their work. The orchestra is either a violin or an instrument resembling a barrel organ. The rooms are low in the ceiling, and are dimly lit up with petroleum lamps. As most of the men smoke pipes or cigars the atmosphere is rather obscure. When I visited these places they were densely crowded. Dances said to be peculiar to Heligoland were in progress. They had much the appearance of a waltz or polka, the steps, perhaps, being more intricate, and the agility of the dancers being more marked than in the dances of more polished society.

Hotel and lodging-house keepers constitute the aristocracy of the island. They are richer than their neighbours. During the three months of the bathing season every available bed is occupied by strangers. As many as 4000 persons from Bremen, Hamburg, Berlin, and other German cities visit Heligoland. While the sun shines the lodging-house keepers make hay. According to English notions the prices charged for accommodation are not exorbitant. A set of apartments, consisting of a sitting-room and two or three bed-rooms, may be had for £1 a week. Living, however, is rather dear, owing to the necessity of having to import meat and nearly all the articles of daily consumption from Hamburg or Bremen. For the entertainment of the visitors a theatre is provided. The company, which is selected with great care, is no mere band of strolling players. In the exercise of his paternal prerogative, the Governor takes care that the theatre shall be creditable to the island. Out of his private pocket he contributes a sum which generally ensures the success of the theatrical speculation. An excellent band of music is engaged in like manner. Both the actors and musicians generally return home with pleasant pecuniary recollections of their Heligoland sojourn. Balls held in the Conversation House afford to the visitors other forms of enjoyment.—*Correspondent of "Daily News."*

The *Leipsic Gazette* makes a lengthy demand for the "restora-

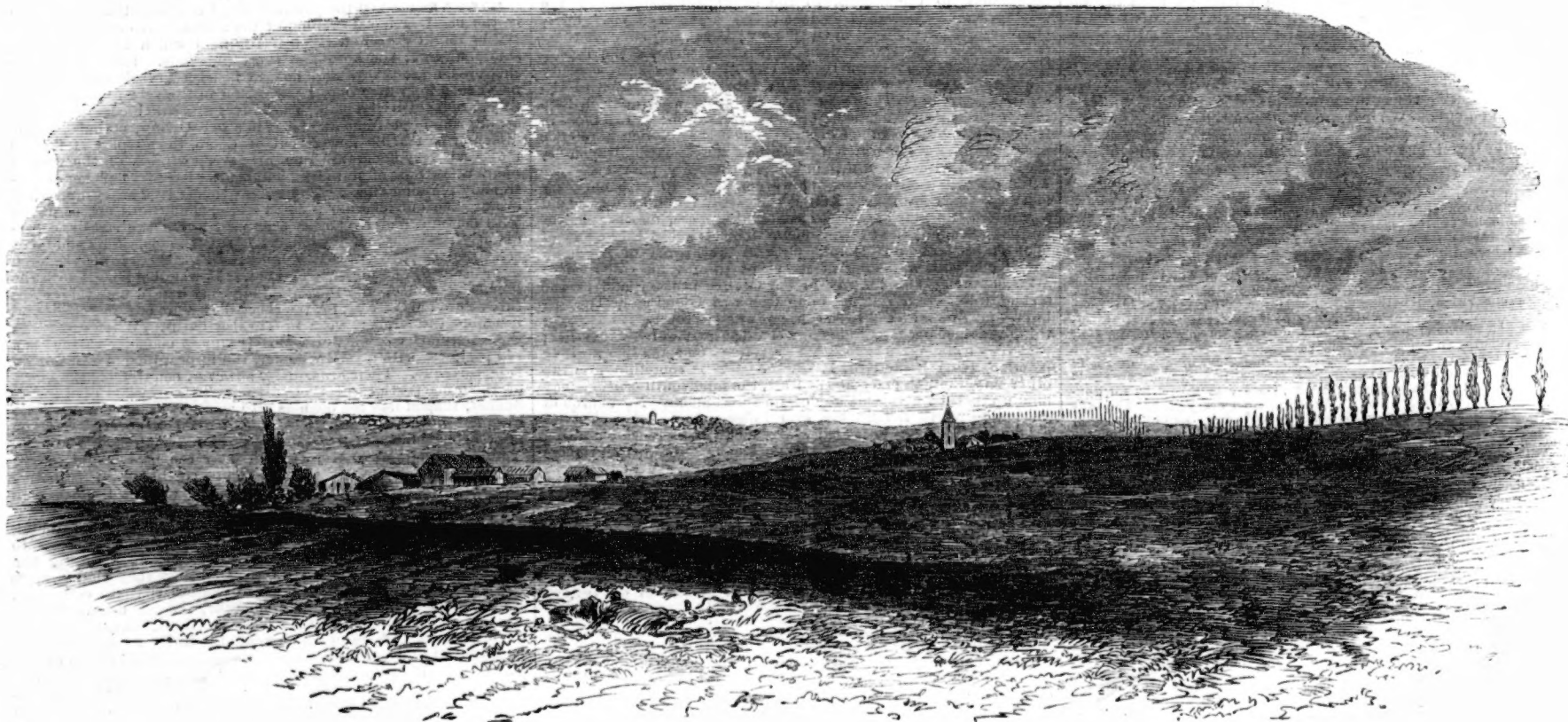
tion" of Heligoland to Germany. England is reminded that she first seized the island from Denmark, and not Germany, by-the-way, in order to make it a smuggling dépôt for British goods at a time (1807) when the Berlin decrees of the preceding year allowed no other inlet for our manufactures, except by the devious method of contraband. It is added that England was enabled to "withhold" the island from Germany in 1815 solely because Germany was not then united, and it was not then "the Power of the first order" which it has since become. During the recent Franco-German war the French were able to maintain their blockade of the German coast mainly, according to the *Leipsic Gazette*, through the circumstance that Heligoland was not German territory. Had it been German territory it would have been strongly fortified, and the strong fortifications would have prevented French war-vessels from anchoring under the lee of the island, and French coal-ships from enjoying a similar refuge. Heligoland, the *Leipsic* journal insists, is a sentinel at the embouchures of the Elbe, the Weser, and the Jahde, the three all-important rivers for commercial or military purposes of the north-west of Germany, and it becomes neither German safety nor German honour to allow a foreign Power to remain in such a position. The *Leipsic Gazette* adds that it would not recommend an immediate declaration of war against England for the possession of the few square feet of ocean rock. It designs, in the first place, that the Reichstag should make known by a unanimous vote that Heligoland was indispensable to Germany, when it doubts not that, at the voice of that august assembly, the predilections of England for an "inalienable" portion of the Fatherland would be certain to disappear.

SKETCHES IN PARIS.

THE RAGPICKERS' CABARET.

In some respects changeable, fickle, volatile Paris never changes. Now that people are settling down after the war and the boulevards are again lively, and the windows are mended, and the

broken places in the walls of houses covered up with plaster, and the Champs Elysées has reopened its al fresco theatres and Punch-inello squeaks outside its cafés, and the caricaturists are venturing to issue little stinging hints about the late war fever, and English tourists are to be seen at the Mabille or sitting outside Tortoni's eating ices—in short, now that Paris has managed to struggle from the ground and makes haste to dress in such finery as she can still get together after her ill-usage, we find much the same sort of occupations and most of the same people in the same places. Perhaps there are more soldiers about than there were before the German invasion, and not long ago the evil-eyed, base-looking population of the viler quarters of the city were more frequently seen prowling in the main thoroughfares by daylight; but these latter have to a great extent retired to their dingy haunts, and are now seen mostly at night in by-places, where some of them are represented by the leather hat, the hook, and lantern of the chiffonier, who picks up rags, bones, string, paper, and unconsidered trifles from the gutters, as he wends his way along the streets, casting furtive glances at any chance wayfarer who may be taking a short cut. They are a strange guild, these ragpickers; and Eugène Sue, Victor Hugo, and the novelists who deal in the mysteries of Paris can never leave them out of their computation. Probably they formed a considerable item in late events; and the stranger who would form an estimate of what the lower stratum of Parisian life is like would be instructed by visiting the quarter where these people live. In former numbers of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* there has appeared some account of these people, their news-room, their foul haunts, their yellow-plastered houses, the strange, wild, lawless-looking dens and yards that are the depositories for their nightly finds. This week we are able to publish a representation of their present resort, a wretched hovel which serves them for a cabaret, and is named La Casserolle (the Saucepan)—a name remarkably significant for such a black hole, where there is neither table, chair, nor bench, but only a mere counter in a corner where it can just be lighted by day from a dim window. The place is on the way to Revolte, and not far from the Arc de Triomphe,

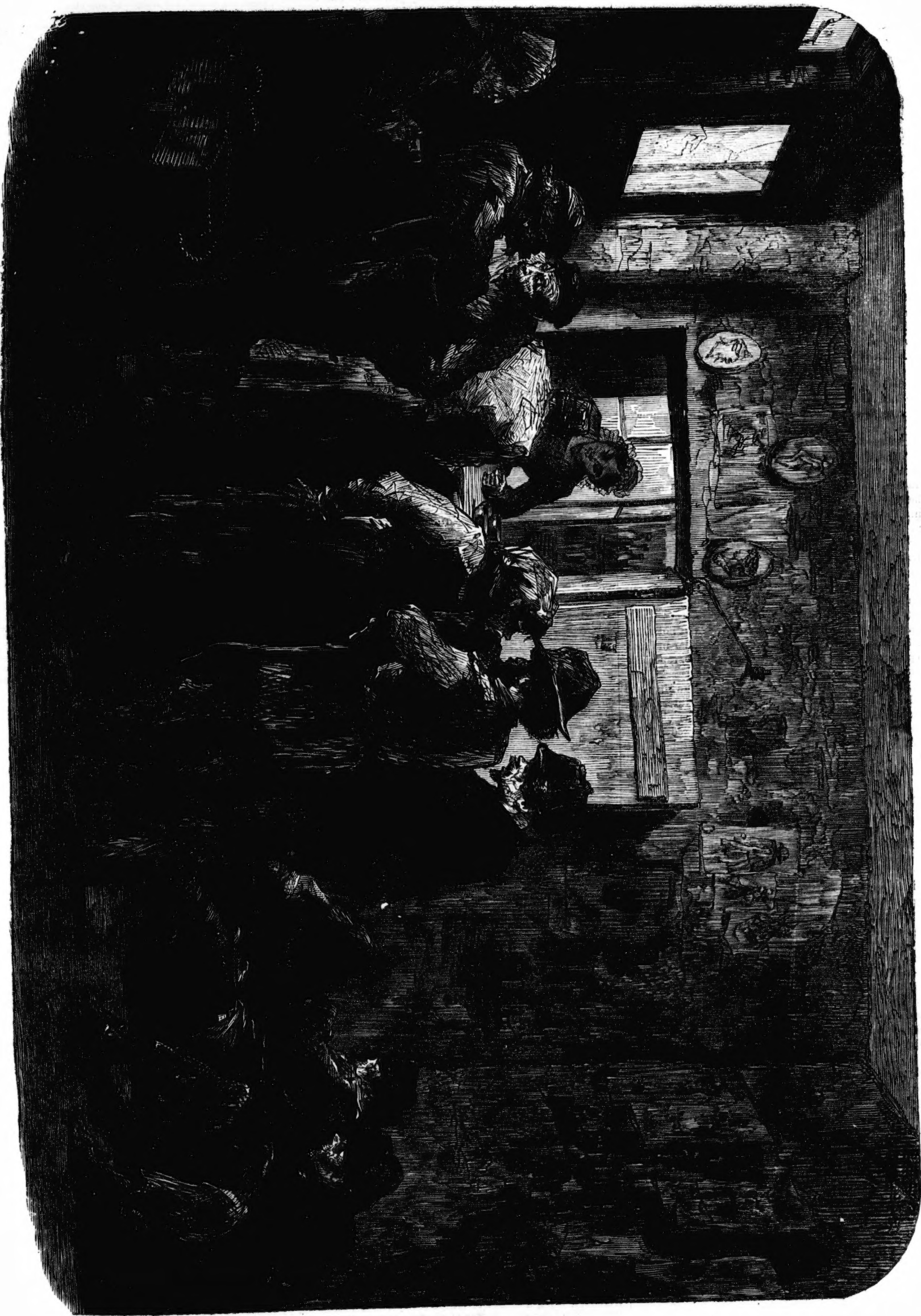


FLAVIGNY.

VIONVILLE.

THE BATTLE-GROUND AT VIONVILLE.—(SEE PAGE 140.)

LOW LIFE IN PARIS: CABARET FREQUENTED BY RAPISTERS.



so it is in the heart of the city; and here, after they have concluded their nightly prowls, the "biffins" go in at the door, stop at the counter on the left, drink, laugh, toss off that deadly spirit now known in Paris as eau-de-vie, and, if they are too fastidious to sit on the floor or are too tired to stand, pass out again, after lighting their pipes. The Casserolle may be regarded as a characteristic illustration of one of the unchanged institutions of the French capital.

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NOTIONS OF LIBERTY.

THE attentive reader of the day's news discovers, we need hardly say, some curious illustrations of the very imperfect manner in which this free people have apprehended for themselves, or been taught by others, the conditions of true freedom. It has been said by Mr. Mill and other thinkers that the average Frenchman does not understand liberty at all, that his idea of freedom is not the true and simple one of being able to do whatever you please so long as you do not injure others, but that of having a certain amount of power over your fellow-citizens. It is only too true. The first French revolution illustrated it; the last has done so again. Thus, the Commune could not distinguish between the refusal of political privileges to one form of religious belief rather than another, which is mere justice; and, on the other hand, the refusal of equal liberty to priests and laymen. They wanted to "put down" the priests altogether—at least some of them did. And so it has ever been, and, according to present prospects, will be for a long while yet. Let us look at home.

Among the numerous cases of ill-treatment of children which have recently shocked humane persons, there was one in which the little creature died of neglect and starvation, the facts being known to the neighbours. Witnesses admitted as much on the inquest, but said they did not think it their business to interfere. And cases of similar indifference to plain social duty are of everyday occurrence, especially amongst the poor.

Now let us turn to another scene before drawing the moral. In one of the mobs that, in mob fashion, interviewed the Marquis and Marchioness of Lorne, a man was observed with his hat on. This was immediately knocked off his head, and the man himself hustled and hooted, though not injured.

Now the last case was not serious, and it was just what might have been expected; but the two stories, taken together, lead up to an important moral. The foundation of civil society is an implicit league for mutual protection from injury. Under the shelter of this league grow up to their full height, beauty, and breadth, character, culture, the conveniences of life, and all the knowledge by which we gradually increase our command of human resources and extend the bounds of our freedom of action. Every parent by the mere act of bringing a child into the world has bound himself to support and protect that child and give it as fair a chance as he had himself. Not to do this is an act of injury, not only to the child but to every other member of the community. If "the strong" produce "the weak" into society—which is what a parent does—or place "the weak" in a position in which they are unable, or little able, to earn their own livings—which is what most men do when they marry women—they have entered into specific contracts with their fellows, in consequence of which the mere abstaining from doing certain things becomes as much a special and general injury as active violence does in other cases. Thus, not to supply food to a wife or a child is as much a crime as to garrote a man. Now, leaving feelings of humanity out of the question (for they belong to another sphere), the persons who saw that child being starved to death were bound to interfere and help to enforce the fulfilment of the social contract entered into by the parents. On the other hand, the man who kept his hat on in the crowd was wronging no one and breaking no contract. He might even have had good reasons for keeping his hat on—he might only yesterday have recovered from an attack of scalp neuralgia, or have just been operated upon for a wen, or a score of other things may have lain in the background. Yet we find that, though people will stand by and let a couple of parents commit a crime—as it happens, a very base and cruel one—not discerning that it is their "business," they will not let a man keep his hat on, which is his own business and nobody else's.

The illustration is trivial, as to one half of it; but the topic is a momentous one. Here we have the great danger of every utopia yet devised by men, and the opprobrium of political progress. We would fain believe—there is, indeed, reason to believe—that the true principles of political and social freedom are better understood in our own country than in any other. But we have nothing to boast of, and

there is not a nation, perhaps, which may not teach us some forgotten article of our lesson. We are a long way yet from having tamed the savage in our bosoms. The desire of ruling others and making them do as we do in matters which do not concern us is a remnant of the very evils which make civil government a necessity wherever men congregate in numbers—namely, the predatory passions. The connection between scalp-hunting, cannibalism, and knocking off a man's hat for nothing is remote; but it is all a question of degree, and any day's newspaper may show that the transition from wanting to make somebody do as you wish and stabbing him is not so difficult to either man or woman.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

IN the second report, just issued, of the Historical Manuscripts Commission we read:—By the continued favour of the heads of houses at Oxford and Cambridge Mr. H. T. Riley has been enabled to resume his examinations of what may be called the "Domestic Records" of the colleges in the two Universities. Among the records preserved at Clare College (formerly Clare Hall), Cambridge, its ancient minute-book, or register, claims especial notice. Information as to the early history of the college is to be derived from it that has probably been lost sight of for centuries, throwing light more especially upon the munificent provision made for its chapel by the foundress, and the history of some of its early masters and benefactors. The collection of letters, carefully preserved by the college, is interesting, those of Tillotson, while still a Fellow of this college, and at a later date, occurring in considerable numbers. Among the other writers are to be found the names of Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle; Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln; Pearson, Bishop of Chester; Henchman, Bishop of London; and Moore, Bishop of Norwich. There is a letter of Robert Lover to Mr. Blythe, afterwards Master, descriptive of the ravages of the plague in Cambridge in 1665. The college order-book contains many entries indicative of the state of political feeling in Cambridge at the beginning of the last century. At Gonville and Caius College is preserved the MS. history of the college, written by Dr. Caius, its third founder. The oldest Computus, or bursars' account-book, of this college now in existence begins in 1423, and contains matters of antiquarian and topographical interest. Among the most valuable records in the possession of Jesus College, Cambridge, are the Computi of the nunnery of St. Radegund, on the site of which the new college now stands. Some of the early deeds here throw light upon Cambridge localities as early as the twelfth century. Though the college itself is of early foundation, the records belonging to Trinity Hall cannot be said to be of ancient date. Among its papers are letters from Queen Elizabeth, Lord Bacon, and Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury; and a letter (or copy of a letter) from the Fellows of the college to Henry, Earl of Holland, Chancellor of the University, begging that John Selden (who was educated at Oxford) may be appointed Master.

Among the comparatively few records or memoranda in the possession of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, a few notices will be found of Bryan Twyne, Richard Hooker, and Edward Pocock, the divine and Orientalist. The book of charges for building the college in the eighth year of Henry VIII. has yielded some extracts which, it is believed, will be found of interest. The Computi, or accounts-roll, of Exeter College are probably among those of earliest date in the University of Oxford. Much information is to be derived from them as to the history of the college. The name of John Trevisa, a Fellow of the college, and one of the early translators of Higden's "Polychronicon," appears more than once. The more ancient deeds and charters also of the college throw light upon the early history of the halls and various localities of Oxford. Manuscript entries in the Latin Psalter and Hymnal in reference to the Obits of Richard Pates, Bishop of Worcester, and Nicholas Harpsfield have been deemed worthy of especial remark. The earlier books of Lincoln College contain particulars relating to the history of the Church of All Saints, in Oxford. Notices have also been extracted from one of the college registers as to Robert Sanderson, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln, and Nathaniel Lord Crewe, Rector of the college and Bishop of Durham. The details as to college life and discipline in the first half of the seventeenth century that are there given, from the rarity of such details, seem to be of peculiar interest. One of the most valuable documents in the possession of New College is a letter written by William de Wykeham, founder of the college, and the only specimen of his writing apparently (beyond his signature), that has survived to these times. Extracts are also given from the early books of the kitchen steward and the hall steward, which furnish much, and it is believed hitherto unnoticed, information as to the social usages of this country at the close of the fourteenth century. The rise in the college from the position of lowest scholar of Thomas Bekynton, afterwards Dean of the Arches and Bishop of Bath and Wells, has been traced from these books. The chief records belonging to Oriel College are its Computi, or treasurers' accounts. In them a notice will be found of Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, then a Fellow of New College, and some particulars relative to St. Mary's, now the University, Church. Though not of any great extent, these extracts, it is believed, will be found to contain some matters of interest in reference to the management of the college in those days, and the habits and usages of the times. From the Computi of Queen's College, Oxford, which begin in 1347, only seven years after the foundation of the college, many particulars of like features to those presented by the Computi of Exeter and Oriel Colleges may be gathered. Notices have been extracted from them containing particulars relative to Robert de Eglesfield, the founder, and to John Trevisa, the translator of Higden's "Polychronicon." A John Wyclif is also mentioned in these Computi more than once. It was the opinion of the late Professor Shirley that this personage is identical with our early Reformer; reasons, however, are given for accepting his conclusion not without hesitation, the only alternative clearly being that there must have been two John Wyclifs residing much about the same time in this college. The question is also noticed whether Henry V., when Prince, really was, as asserted by tradition, a member of this college; while passages—hitherto, it is believed, unnoticed—are given in proof that his uncle, Henry Beaufort, afterwards Cardinal, was a member of the society. The Register, or Chartulary, of the Hospital of St. Julian, or God's House, in Southampton, in the possession of this college—commencing, probably, in the reign of Edward III.—contains matters of interest that are at present unexplored, more especially in reference to the former history of Southampton. Under the head of Trinity College, Oxford, some slight notices are given of Doctors Kettell and Bathurst (former presidents of the college); of Elizabeth, the second wife of Sir Thomas Pope, the re-founder of the house of Sir Theodore Mayerne; William Chillingworth; John Somers, afterwards Lord Chancellor of England; and the unfortunate Eustace Budgell, who was originally a member of this college, though in some of the biographies he is mentioned as of Christ Church only. Worcester, being a college of comparatively recent foundation, has nothing of its own in the way of what may be called "records." It, however, possesses a manuscript register of the town of Leslie, in Fife, A.D. 1606-45. There are some entries in the register-book of its predecessor on the site, Gloucester Hall, in which the names of Kenelm Digby and John Speed appear among the subscribers to the buildings of the new chapel in 1630. The folio MS. volume giving an account of Archbishop Laud's trial, on close examination, may possibly be found to disclose facts which have hitherto been overlooked. The records of Jesus College, Oxford, are but few in number, and do not call for especial remark.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN'S HEALTH appears, from the statement of the *Court Circular*, to be improving. Her Majesty has been able to resume her accustomed drives, but is yet far from convalescent.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES have been at Ober-Ammergau. A communication to the *Times* says:—"The Prince and Princess have put up with humble fare in a cottage belonging to one of the woodcutters. They took their places among the rest, and made their way through the crowd, walking through the village afterwards, the Princess looking so sweet and gentle. The Marquis of Bute also is here, with Bishop Clifford and Monsignor Capel; also Madame Lind-Goldschmidt. The place is thronged, and everyone has put up with cottage rooms and fare."

PRINCESS LOUISE was so pleased with the situation of Roseneath, where she has recently been staying, that the Duke of Argyll has abandoned his intention to dispose of that estate, and Roseneath Castle is likely to become the Scotch residence of her Royal Highness and the Marquis of Lorne.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS arrived in London on Monday afternoon. His Majesty, who is travelling incognito, and is said to have come to London solely for the purpose of visiting the International Exhibition, is accompanied by M. Jules Devaux and Count de Couteuremont.

THE EX-EMPEROR NAPOLEON, accompanied by the Empress and the Prince Imperial, visited Rochester on Tuesday, and spent an hour and a half in inspecting the Great Eastern, which is lying off Sheerness.

MR. GLADSTONE has written a letter acknowledging the receipt of the resolution of a meeting at Leeds condemning the course pursued by the House of Lords with reference to the Ballot Bill, in which he "regrets alike the vote and the grounds of the vote for the rejection of the bill," as well as its consequences; but assures his correspondent that the Government "are not likely to recede from a course of action deliberately adopted and approved by the House of Commons and the country."

MR. BRIGHT has written a letter from his retirement in the north of Scotland, approving of the recent meeting at Birmingham to promote the reform of the House of Lords, and adding that, as he has appropriated this year to the recovery of his health, he advisedly keeps out "of all conflicts on public questions."

CAPTAIN VIVIAN, the member for Truro, who has for some time acted in the capacity of a Lord of the Treasury attached to the War Department, and who was commonly, though erroneously, called Financial Secretary to the War Office, has been gazetted as permanent Under-Secretary to Mr. Cardwell. Captain Vivian vacates his seat in Parliament, for which Mr. Augustus Smith, the former member, will offer himself.

SIR R. MURCHISON has received from Dr. Kirk, British Consul at Zanzibar, a letter, in which he states that Dr. Livingstone is moving slowly but safely towards the seacoast.

THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER preached a funeral sermon for Mr. Charles Buxton at the Abbey on Sunday afternoon. The Tower Hamlets Volunteers, of which Mr. Buxton had been Lieutenant-Colonel, were present to the number of about 1000.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE of the tower at St. Mary's Church, Exeter, in memory of the late Bishop, was laid on Monday.

PROFESSOR WILHELM ZAHN, who had acquired a well-merited celebrity in reference to the excavations at Herculaneum and Pompeii, died at Berlin on the 22nd ult.

AT THE WINTER EXAMINATION of 1871 for admission to the Royal Military Academy, the limits of age of candidates will be from sixteen to nineteen.

MR. ALFRED ST. ALBYN, who was for some time connected with the Globe Theatre, having taken a part in "Falsacappa," died on Monday morning in Charing-cross Hospital, where he had been under treatment for the last few weeks for consumption.

THE WIFE OF MR. EDWARD MYERS, blacksmith, residing at Drompton, near Scarborough, gave birth, the other day, to three children (two sons and a daughter), all of whom are doing well.

WILLIAM RODWAY, who is charged with attempting to murder Mrs. Carrington at the Devil's Jump, was re-examined at the Farnham Police Court on Monday, and, after two or three witnesses had been examined, he was remanded.

A RAILWAY COLLISION occurred at Bolton station, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, on Tuesday afternoon. A goods-train ran into the hind carriage of a passenger-train from Manchester to Liverpool, and six passengers were slightly injured. The cause is alleged to be some misunderstanding between the railway officials, which is being inquired into.

A FULL-LENGTH PORTRAIT OF SIR TITUS SALT, subscribed for by 2295 of the inhabitants of Saltaire, and an address expressing the feelings entertained towards him by the large number of persons employed by him, were presented to the Baronet on Saturday, in the lecture-hall of the Mechanics' Institute.

EDWIN PERKINS, the driver of the mail-train on the Midland Railway to which the accident happened last week at Mountsorrel, died on Saturday at Derby from the injuries he received.

G. F. RODWELL, Esq., F.C.S., F.R.A.S., late Assistant Master at Clifton College, and editor of the "Haydn Dictionary of Science," has been appointed Science Master at Marlborough College.

A RESOLUTION adopted some time ago by the office committee, and confirmed by the Manchester School Board, prohibiting the employment of women as visitors, was unanimously rescinded at the last meeting, and the committee was authorised "to employ the most eligible persons as visitors, without distinction of sex."

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE IRONMASTERS have resolved to increase the wages of puddlers 6d. per ton, and of millmen and others 5 per cent; to advance the price of finished iron 10s. per ton, and to restore the wages of colliers and ironstone miners, which were reduced in 1868, to the former rate. These advances to commence in a fortnight from this day (Saturday).

SOME BOYS, sons of Mr. Greasley, of Kilnhurst, near Sheffield, last Saturday morning gathered and ate a quantity of poisonous fungi. They were taken very ill shortly afterwards, and, although medical assistance was rendered, one of them is not expected to recover.

A NUMBER OF FEMALES employed at Messrs. Wilkinson's worsted-mills, Leeds, struck work, on Tuesday, without giving any reason or making any demand. (On the previous day the firm reduced the week's labour by one hour, and made other concessions, which appeared to give general satisfaction.)

A SLOOP CALLED THE COLLINA, of Padstow, forty tons register, lying by the Penzance pier, laden with two hundred casks of benzoline, was set on fire, on Tuesday, by an explosion of the spirit. It was found impossible to extinguish the flames, and the sloop was burnt to the water's edge. A man and boy were badly injured.

THE DECLARATION OF THE POLL IN EAST SURREY took place last Saturday afternoon, at Croydon. The numbers were officially declared as follow:—Mr. Watney, 3912; Mr. Leveson-Gower, 2749; showing a majority for the Conservative candidate of 1163. Mr. Watney was present, and returned thanks to the electors. There were some cries for Mr. Leveson-Gower, but that gentleman was not present.

TWO MEN, NAMED WALLER AND PETTITT, have been apprehended at Newhaven on a charge of being implicated in the murder of James Greenhead, of Croydon, who in November, 1869, was found dead in a ditch near the Cuckfield burial-ground. The prisoners have been examined before the local magistrates and remanded for a week.

THE STRIKES are extending to Scotland. At a meeting of shipwrights at Glasgow on Saturday it was stated that the Benfrew men had come out the day before, with the exception of a few piece workers; and that the Greenock men demanded 30s. per week, instead of 25s. 7d. for fifty-seven hours per week. A motion to accept 27s. 6d., the masters recognising fifty-seven hours, as a week's wages was rejected.

A THIEF was seen the other day coming out of a window at Gwydyr, near Llanrwst. A servant gave the alarm, and the man ran off as fast as he could, and was pursued by a workman on the estate. A police constable joined in the pursuit, and the thief took to the water, trying to wade across the Conway. He got out of his depth, sank, and was drowned. He turned out to be a shoemaker, well known in the neighbourhood.

A MAN WAS FOUND DRUNK in the streets of Bolton the other day, and on being taken into custody, a bottle containing a pint of whisky was found in his possession. The spirit was submitted to the excise authorities, who, after tasting or smelling, or both, pronounced that duty had not been paid on it. They accordingly took proceedings against him for the possession of the spirit, about which he professed complete ignorance, and the magistrates fined him in the mitigated penalty of £25. Wonderfully sagacious officers and magistrates those must be to know non-duty-paid whisky by the taste or smell!

THE STEAM-SHIP ABER, lately placed on the station between Donaghadee and Portpatrick, was run down on Monday evening in mid-channel by the Royal mail-steamer Prussian, on her passage from Quebec to Liverpool. There was a dense fog at the time. The Aber went upon twenty fathoms of water. She was completely cut in two, but hung upon the Prussian long enough to enable the passengers to get aboard the latter vessel. The passengers and crew were all landed at Donaghadee by the Prussian, with the exception of two who were injured, and who were prevailed upon by the doctor of the Prussian to go with them to Liverpool.

THE LOUNGER.

THE defeat of the Liberal candidate in Surrey did not surprise me. In truth, I all but knew that Mr. Leveson-Gower would be beaten. Before I left London I heard enough to convince me that his success was next to impossible. The *Times* says that on the Liberal side the organisation was imperfect; but it adds, "this only proves that there was no heartiness on the Liberal side;" and it may be so. I suspect, though, that there was want of money. Mr. Leveson-Gower bears an illustrious name, is allied to one of our richest noble families, but he is not rich; whilst, on the other hand, Mr. Watney, of the firm of Elliot, Watney, and Co., the brewers of the noted Pimlico fine ales, is presumably very wealthy, as most big brewers are. Take this, then, as one cause of Mr. Leveson-Gower's defeat. But there is another and more potent cause. Mr. Watney had the licensed victuallers with him to a man. A great brewer would under any circumstances command a vast number of the publican votes. But if I mistake not, Elliot, Watney, and Co. possess a very large number of public-houses in East Surrey. The golden stag, the emblem of these big brewers, blazes on scores of public-house fronts in this division of Surrey. Under any circumstances, then, Mr. Watney would have been supported by a considerable number of victuallers, and all whom these victuallers could influence; and they are not without influence, these victuallers, as all who have canvassed at elections will know. But, lastly, there was Mr. Bruce's bill. I said in your columns whilst the agitation against that bill was going on that if a general election should occur before the fever subsided, the Government would lose half its majority. True, the bill was withdrawn, but the fever has not subsided, nor will it subside for many a long day; and I hold now that were we to have a general election, Gladstone's Government would be terribly weakened, nay, I fear, destroyed. And, now, are the victuallers to be severely censured for their conduct? I cannot think so. "Men ought to vote irrespective of their private interests—that is, suffer martyrdom, if needs be;" and there have been times in our history when thousands of our countrymen did this. The Welsh farmers did this at the last election, and many of them have had to suffer severely for it. But heroism of this sort is very uncommon, and in this case was not to be expected. In short, the Government is reaping what it sowed. The Government Licensing Bill, if it had become law, would have imperilled the property of almost every licensed victualler in the kingdom and ruined thousands, and the licensed victuallers have done, and will do, all they can to destroy the Government. It is useless to shake your head and groan, my purist friend; we must take men as they are. If we were placed in the position of the licensed victuallers, we should probably do the same as they have done and mean to do. Once upon a time a starving man came across some food belonging to some harvest men in a field and ate it. He was taken before a magistrate, who, in answer to the plea put in by the prisoner, said, "Though you might have been starving, you ought to have resisted the temptation to steal." To which the prisoner replied, "Would you have done?" Whereupon the worthy magistrate, hardly able to repress a smile, dismissed the prisoner with a "Go, and sin no more."

By-the-way, we have in this place three hotels, all very respectable. The proprietors of two of these hotels have lately got their leases renewed for a term of fifty years at a very much increased ground-rent. The proprietor of one, believing that his lease would be continued, according to custom, in perpetuity, has laid out upon the hotel and grounds a very large sum. The proprietor of the other is about to add largely to her house, both calculating that, before the expiration of their leases, they will be able to cover out of their profits the sums expended. But if Mr. Bruce's bill had become law, at the end of ten years their licenses would have been taken from them and put up to auction, and they would have lost a very large sum—perhaps, indeed, have been ruined. Think of this, and wonder not at the exasperation of the licensed victuallers.

Unfortunate Mr. Bruce! One cannot but commiserate him. He meant well, for an honest man than our Home Secretary does not live, nor does any man work harder than he; but then honesty, good intentions, and industry are not the only qualifications for a Secretary of State. He ought to have a mind capable of grasping a large subject, and clearness of intellect to enable him to see all the details of his subject and their connection and bearings; but these qualifications Mr. Bruce has not, and hence his conspicuous failure. Would that by a change of arrangements he could be put in some less important office more suitable to his capacity! But one sees not how this can be done. He is one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, with a salary of £5000 a year; and to place him in a lower position with a smaller salary would be a degradation to which we cannot expect he would submit. Nor can Gladstone be expected to dismiss him; that would be too painful a thing to do. There is, however, one hope; Mr. Bruce has now a very clever Under-Secretary—to wit, Mr. Winterbottom. This gentleman is unquestionably a man of ability. He is, too, a good lawyer. So let us hope, then, that if nothing great be attempted next Session the blunders of this will not be repeated. There is this, though, to be remembered—and when I remember it I almost despair—viz., the Home Office is so overloaded with work that it is, as it seems to me, quite impossible that the Secretary of State and his Under-Secretary can give sufficient time, and attention, and thought to the measures which come before them. In truth, I do really believe, and have long believed, that here is the blot. The Home Office is now so overloaded with work that I do not believe that the ablest administrator that ever lived could perform the duties of Home Secretary satisfactorily. This department ought to be split up into three or four departments. But now it just occurs to me that a bill called the "Local Government Board Bill," which Mr. Stansfeld got through last Session—a bill to concentrate all sanitary matters in the Poor-Law Board—will lighten the duties of the Home Office somewhat. But still it will have far too much to do.

I have visited North Wales many times, but not until a few days ago had I ever gone into the Beddgelart region. It is a long way from my head-quarters. Too far off for me to walk there and back in a day, and, as you know, I do not often ride anywhere—never, indeed, if I can walk. Last Saturday, however, I had an opportunity to shoot out of my usual range and visit Beddgelart, which I could not resist. A party was going up Snowdon and was to take a car to the base of the mountain, some four miles beyond Capel Curig, and it was agreed that I should go in the car and take it on to Beddgelart, and that they should descend on that side of the mountain and meet me there; and this was done. And I have to say that this journey down into Beddgelart, by Lakes Gwynant and Dimas, on a serpentine terrace half way up a mountain side, gave me a panorama of brilliant green valleys, sparkling lakes, lofty, picturesque, fantastic rocks, all covered with trees, or heather, or gorse from base to top, the like of which surely can be seen nowhere but in North Wales. No, not in Lake Land, because there is little heath and flowery gorse there, and consequently not the colour we have here. Of course, I went to Abergelystyn, and saw the beautiful river rushing along through a gorge between perpendicular rocks 500 ft. high, and the noble stone bridge which spans the gorge. But I did not go to see Gellart's (the dog's) grave, and for this reason—the story is a myth. Many countries have this famous story, and lately it has been discovered that it is a Persian tradition, older by 1000 years than the Welsh tradition.

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER IN HIS DIOCESE.

THE Bishop of Manchester addressed a number of the men employed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at a tea-meeting held at Bolton last Saturday evening. In the course of his remarks the Bishop said that, unhappily, we Christian people were broken up more or less into different sections and denominations, but withal he did find that they were all trying to grasp what he believed to be the root of the matter. After all, the great secret of religion was the power which made life happy, and that was what they tried to preach from their pulpits according to their several convictions. Religion did not belong so much to a particular denomination as to what the old Hebrew prophet told the people was religion—"doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly before our God." Therefore he did not like to use the word "unsectarian" or "undenominational," which had become very fashionable, and which he had become sick of. He rejoiced when he had the opportunity of meeting a body of working men, and when he could come among those who, although they did not pronounce their shibboleth in the same way, were yet their brethren, and all the same servants of one common Lord, trying to set forward according to the best of their powers the same great catholic cause. Upon more than one occasion he had given utterance in Manchester to his sentiments on the subject of recreation for working men. He had observed the habits of the working classes in France, Germany, and Italy; and, although he should not like the English people to copy all their modes of living, yet he did say that life on the continent of Europe was somehow or other brighter, and in some senses a sweeter thing, than life in England. If they looked at an Englishman going out on a holiday to enjoy himself they would see that he did not look as if he was going to make a festive day of it. Many would say on going out for a holiday that they almost wished it was over. We had not yet discovered the secret of spending a holiday in a really rational way. Last Sunday week he went to Blackpool to preach a sermon, stayed the night over, and on Monday returned. Walking up and down the pier, he was wonderfully struck with what he saw. They told him that 25,000 excursionists had arrived there on the Saturday. He was informed that the normal population of the place was only about 7000. He was perfectly amazed to see the crowds that were surging one way or another between the two great piers that thrust their long arms out into the sea. Bold cavaliers were riding wretched horses at the rate of six miles an hour, and looking very solemn and very serious. But the general look was not very much like that of enjoyment. However, the thought did strike him what a general blessing these railways were, enabling many poor, hard-worked souls, who toiled throughout the year in the close dark lanes and alleys of Manchester and other large towns, to make a pleasant and rapid journey to a seaside town, where they could enjoy the refreshing view of the magnificent ocean rolling its great waves on the shore, and the other healthy pleasures surrounding—it really gladdened his heart to think that by means of railways 25,000 people could be taken down to Blackpool and stay there until the following Monday, at comparatively trifling cost, and could, if they liked, have so much pure enjoyment. What a Frenchman or German would do was this:—He would go out and have a pleasant day and go home sober. This was what the working men of England had to learn, how to enjoy a holiday without a derangement of the stomach and a headache next morning, and probably something a good deal worse—that little pricking of the conscience which a man felt when he knew that he had enjoyed himself selfishly, leaving his wife and children at home. Intemperance was increasing. It was spreading in directions where, above others, it was most fatal. It was spreading among women, among young girls, and among Sunday-school scholars. The principle of filial reverence and obedience such as he had been brought up in was very much lessened in these latter days, and in Lancashire particularly he had noticed a diminution of filial respect. It was partly attributable to the high rate of wages which young people could earn. He had heard of young girls in Ribchester and Balderstone earning 14s., 15s., and 16s. per week. He did not grudge them the good wages; he rejoiced that they could earn them; but he did not think a religious-minded young girl would say that, because she earned wages enough to keep herself, she was right to turn round upon her mother, who said to her, "Kate, I would rather see you home a little earlier than you are. Kate, I don't think that young man is quite good enough for you. I don't think he will make a good husband, and if he will not make a good husband don't encourage him"—and say to her mother, "If you talk to me in that way I shall go away and go into housekeeping myself." The Bishop concluded with some advice as to courtship. The Bishop has also preached a sermon at Clitheroe to members of clubs and friendly societies. In concluding his discourse, he said:—I hear it said that many working men in England are becoming Republicans. I often wonder, when I hear that, what are the hopes of men who call themselves Republicans. If I thought that righteousness, and justice, and truth, and fair dealing between man and man would be furthered, and that we should prosper more under a Republic than under what we call a Monarchy—if I believed that life could be made brighter, and sweeter, and richer in anything that constitutes true brightness, and sweetness, and riches, I perhaps should be a Republican too. But as long as we live under equal laws, and every man has a chance of doing the best he can for himself, and there is a "fair field and no favour," and where there is a readiness to remove abuses in Church or State where they can be proved—and I think we are working steadily towards such a condition of things in England, for I am quite sure there is a higher conception of duty prevailing among public men to-day than there was twenty-five years ago—I don't believe that one form of government is much more favourable to human progress than another. A strange impatience, disquietude, and discontent seem to have taken possession of the public mind. Men yearn for they hardly know what, and look for it they hardly know whence. While they are doing that they may be sure they are too often apt to neglect obvious duties; and, while they are trying to set Church and State right, they are forgetting to set their own houses and hearts right. No doubt there are certain grounds for impatience and discontent. Everything is not as one would wish it to be, but I think that things are working on steadily, if slowly, to a better time. We may anticipate God's purposes, but not the time of His performances. In St. Peter's day men called God slack. People now want miracles, sudden changes, revolutions. Dear friends, trust God, and trust to yourselves. Trust to your better instincts, to your nobler aims. You are associated together for a most legitimate object. You are trying to carry out the great principle of co-operation and mutual help. You may have fanciful names, but your objects are real, true, and good. Whether you are Gardeners, Foresters, or Druids, I ask you to stand nobly to the principle of mutual help. Holding out the right hand to a needy neighbour is one of the cardinal principles of Christ's kingdom. Let no unworthy jealousies or foolish rivalries disturb your harmony. Your membership in such societies ought to be your best guarantee against fretfulness; for fretfulness is the spirit of a man who has lost faith in God's providence. God's grace and providence, I believe, run parallel, and, it may be often said, in converging lines; and the man who turns to the best account whatever talents or opportunities God endows him with, that man, I believe, shall find reserved for him the noblest field of usefulness and of happiness hereafter.

Bishop Fraser presided at a united tea meeting of Church of England and Dissenting Schools, at Accrington, on Monday night. He said he was exceedingly glad they were beginning to see, with the Apostle Paul, that there was a more excellent way of promoting religion than by quarrelling about it. Some people would call that an unsectarian meeting (he was almost sick of the word), but it was not. It was a better thing; it was a meeting of persons who had their own definite and distinct beliefs, but who owned allegiance to one great Master, and who recognised it as their bounden duty to unite one with another in extending the

boundaries of that Master's kingdom. He did not believe in compromises, whether political or religious. He wanted every man to hold fast what he believed, but to take care what he held was worth holding fast. When he saw that the powers of evil were gathering with a force and concentrated energy that the world had scarcely seen before, it almost broke his heart sometimes to see those within the Church who call themselves Christians quarrelling about the colour of a vesture or the posture of a minister, and they of the Church without quarrelling about some doctrine which, whether true or not, was only of secondary importance, when they might be mighty regiments standing side by side, presenting one unbroken, undaunted front against the enemy of souls. While they were fighting one amongst another, Churchmen against Nonconformists, and vice versa, and possibly both against Catholics, the common enemy of them all was looking on with a scoff on his face and a taunt on his tongue. He rejoiced that the Sunday-school teachers of Accrington and the ministers of religious denominations had struck out for Lancashire, and he hoped for other parts of England, a better and more Christian way. He hoped it would be the date of an era of Christian peace and more Christian activity. They would agree to differ, and believe that, after all, the things which should unite them were infinitely more precious, infinitely more important than the things which should separate them. While he was a staunch Protestant, he was quite sure the weapons of mob law and persecution were not the weapons to fight anyone who differed from him, but sound, temperate arguments and evidence of a Christian life. Though the Roman Catholics did not pronounce shibboleth as we did, he did not see why they should not live together as neighbours, brethren, and fellow-Christians, side by side. His Lordship then alluded to political differences, and said—though he had been taken somewhat severely to task for saying it—he would venture to repeat that the Church of England, as a Church, and Nonconformist denominations, as religious organisations, had no business to be political at all. They were not organised for political purposes, and it was a treason to the holy cause they had at heart if they used them for such purposes.

THE LATE GALE.—During the gale experienced at the latter end of last week good service was performed by boats belonging to the National Life-Boat Institution. The Southport life-boat saved seventeen lives from a large barque, the *Times*, of Liverpool, which had gone ashore near Formby, in a heavy sea. The Dundalk life-boat remained all night by the brigantine *Zoe*, of that port, which had been dismasted and had all her boats destroyed, and in the morning, with the aid of a steam tug, the vessel and crew were taken into harbour; and the Arbroath life-boat saved the crew of five men and a pilot from the schooner *Ann*, of Inverness, which went on the rocks to the eastward of Arbroath Harbour, and became a total wreck.

THE FOURTH OF SEPTEMBER IN FRANCE.—The Minister of the Interior in France has sent the following circular to the Prefects on the subject of the proposed celebration of the anniversary of the establishment of the present French Republic:—"Versailles, Aug. 24, 1871.—Sir,—I am informed that in several towns preparations are being made to celebrate the anniversary of Sept. 4, either by reviews of National Guards or public rejoicings. The revolution accomplished on that day undoubtedly established the Republic in France; and henceforth the country, master of its own destinies, may in all freedom bestow upon itself the institutions it deems best fitted to ensure its prosperity and its grandeur. But the disasters which determined that event must not be forgotten, nor must the fact be disguised that any commemorative fête in its honour would recall, at the same time, our saddest reverses. Will you, therefore, appeal to the patriotism of all good citizens? Represent to them that France, only just emerging from foreign war and civil war, is still mourning; that part of her soil is still occupied by troops which are not her own; and that manifestations of the kind which are being prepared would just now wound every feeling of propriety. No doubt your voice will be generally listened to; but if, contrary to your counsels, the projects announced should in some places be persisted in, I beg of you to have recourse, in order to oppose them, to the means the law places at your disposal."

A TRULY BRAVE HERO.—Heroism of the martyr type, arising from the love of Christ, and hence greatly superior to any mere martial heroism, was exhibited by many of the Friends in North Carolina and other Southern States during the late war. Long freed from the burden of slave holding themselves, they could not, even if not irreconcilably opposed to war, take part in the contest against the Government. Therefore they were exposed to violence, such as may be imagined by those acquainted with the records of Andersonville and the Libby prison. From many such accounts within reach we extract a portion only of one, from the *Nashville Banner*. George Vestal, a Quaker, refusing either to enter the rebel army or to pay an exemption fee, was forced into camp. Unwilling to do anything whatever of the nature of military duty, three men with sharp Enfield bayonets then thrust them into the fleshy part of his thighs, inflicting in all thirty-five wounds, ranging in depth from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to 1 in. Frequently he was knocked down with the butts of the guns, but as long as he had strength he would turn one side and the other for the guards, until finally they refused to inflict further punishment. At this juncture the brave men who composed the old 14th Regiment became loud in their condemnation of this proceeding. The excitement was intense, and had the Brigadier-General issued a second order of this character he would have been unable to have it executed. Vestal was afterwards, upon trial by court-martial, confined in Castle Thunder. At the evacuation of Richmond he was still in prison, and secured his release only by the downfall of the Confederacy.

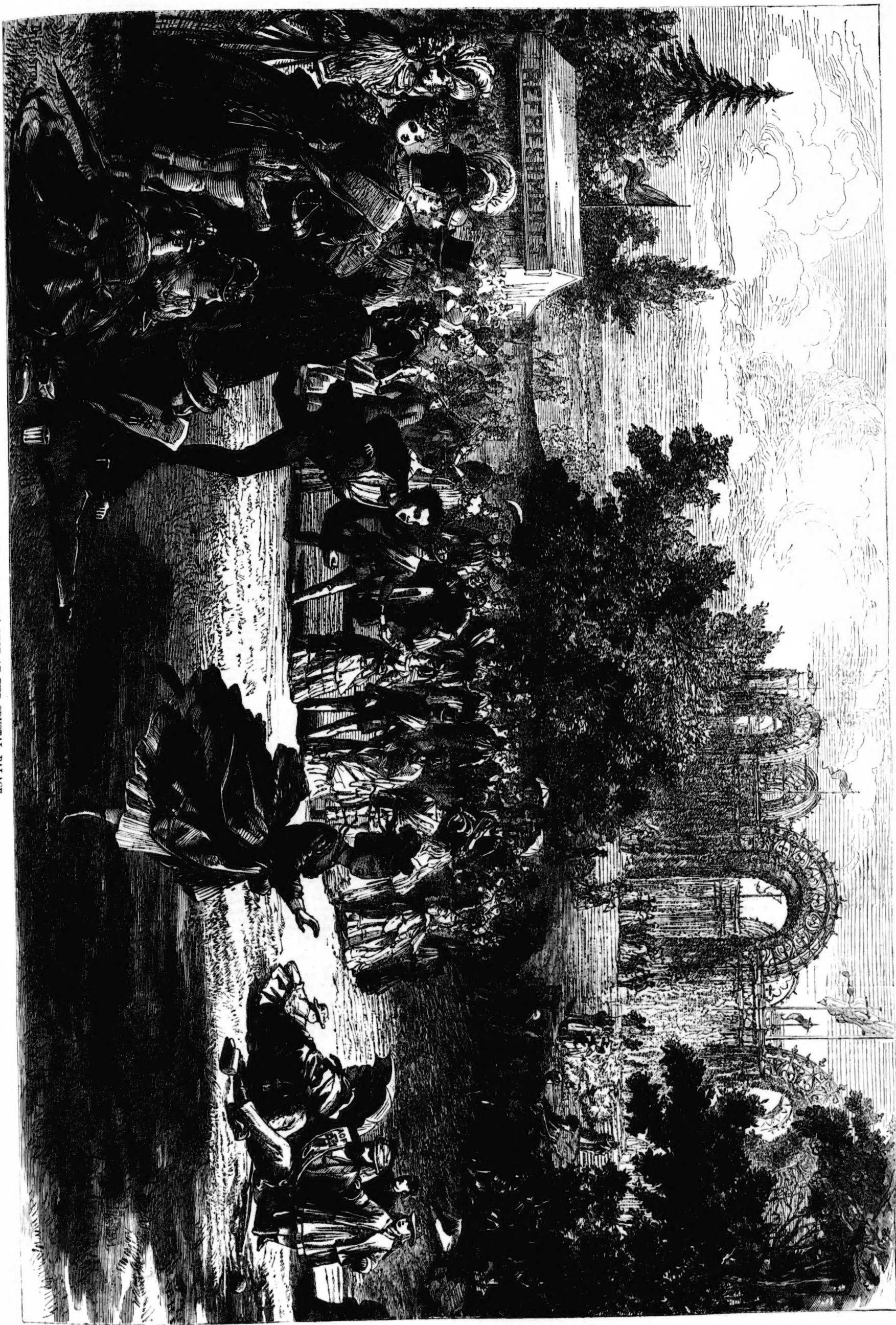
HINTS ON OBVIATING DISEASE.—It is probable that many of the diseases common to this season of the year are engendered through the wasteful and poisonous practices of gardeners. But the householder is always ready to help and the servants of every grade, male and female, are willing coadjutors. The dusthole and the muck-pit are two potent producers of disease, and probably contribute as actively as any agencies to multiply cases of cholera and typhus. The dusthole is the receptacle of every kind of waste, putrescent and otherwise, and it is a permanent prolific nursery for rats. In a town house the nuisance must be endured, perhaps; but it need not be aggravated, as it too often is, by sheer and shameful neglect, so that it becomes at last more dangerous to disturb its horrid contents than to leave it alone to fester and fume the district with the sickly emanations of organic decay. But the country house has no need of a dusthole, for all such stuff as would be consigned to it should be dealt with daily and the stuff sorted and disposed of at once—the good cinders to the stovehole; the clean, fine ashes to a heap, to be in readiness for path-mending and other such purposes; and other rubbish to the kitchen garden, to be dug in at once in common with the proper refuse of the garden, which should be buried in trenches instead of being thrown on a muck heap to putrefy and poison the atmosphere. The earth will absorb every kind of animal and vegetable refuse, and hold it ready for the purposes of living vegetation in the most perfect manner. The common soil, indeed, is the best known deodoriser; and hence the earth closet and the charcoal system of filtering sewage are entitled to instant and anxious attention as aids to the preservation and improvement of the public health.—*Gardener's Magazine*.

STRANDING OF AN IRONCLAD AT THE NORE.—Some little excitement was occasioned at Sheerness, on Tuesday, by the statement that one of the ironclads recently attached to the combined manœuvring squadrons had gone ashore on a small shoal close to what is called the Middle Ground, near the Nore Light. The vessel to which this mishap has occurred is the armour-plated screw-ship *Repulse*, 12 guns, 3749 tons, 800-horse power, Captain W. Rolland, C.B., which sailed from Torbay on Sunday morning for Sheerness, where she arrived at 9.15 p.m. on Monday evening. She anchored two miles below the Nore, and on Tuesday morning passed a satisfactory inspection by Vice-Admiral the Hon. C. G. J. B. Elliot, C.B., Commander-in-Chief at Sheerness, who passed a high encomium upon the discipline of the crew. At 1.30 p.m. orders were given for the ship to get under way, for the purpose of proceeding to Chatham to be docked, previous to leaving for Queensferry, where she has been stationed as coast-guard ship. The *Repulse* draws about 22 ft. forward and 23 ft. aft. At the time of the accident the ship was steaming slowly along, leadmen being in the chains, when she suddenly grounded, and, although immediate orders were given for the engines to go hard astern, the ship "stuck fast." Naval men state that an error of judgment was committed in weighing anchor with such a vessel at three-quarter ebb to come into Sheerness harbour. The ship, it is stated, was not in charge of a pilot at the time, so that the officers responsible for the navigation of the vessel must have been Captain William R. Rolland and Staff-Commander Henry S. Ley. Signals were made for assistance from Sheerness at 2.30 p.m., and a tug was soon after dispatched to the stranded vessel, but this assistance proved unavailing. Fortunately the sea was smooth, for at low tide the *Repulse* was aground fore and aft, the water being about 1 ft. beneath the water-line. As the tide flowed every preparation was made for getting her off, and at 9.30 p.m., with her own engines backing astern and the aid of a tug, she gradually slipped off the sand into deep water, and was soon anchored in a safe position. It is not supposed that the vessel is much, if at all, injured; and during the afternoon she came into the harbour and was moored at the Garrison Point moorings, where her bottom will be examined by the dockyard diver, to ascertain what damage has been done. The occurrence will, of course, become the subject of an official inquiry, when the conduct of the officers in charge of the ship will be fully investigated.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY have approved of a code of regulations whereby the pointsmen in their service will have their position much improved. At the principal stations and junctions the attendance on duty will in no case exceed eight hours per day, and at the minor stations a reduction in the hours of duty has also been made, while in all cases this change is accompanied by an increase of wages.



A BIT OF "STILL LIFE."



THE FORESTERS' FETE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

A BIT OF STILL LIFE.

Isn't it Canon Kingsley who says that nobody yet has discovered what an infinite variety of life is to be found in one square foot of ground in an English country lane? At this season of the year, when everybody is going out of town, and many a holiday tourist is wondering what will be the best place to visit for a change, it would be well if some of us remembered this saying. At all events, those among us who see no prospect of a lengthened vacation—and still more those whose anticipations are restricted to the pleasures of "a day now and then"—may find a world of satisfaction if we will only give some practical meaning to the reflection, and set about looking in earnest at the beauties that lie before us, around us, and almost beneath our feet, as we stroll along the hedgerows that are still to be found within an hour's journey of suburban London. There is no need for any very high degree of scientific education in order to observe intelligently the wonderful beauty and adaptation that is everywhere appealing to us, even in the most ordinary country ramble. An elementary book on botany and field flowers may be bought for a few pence, and the contents of it pretty well mastered in a week's leisure time; and even entomology and geology are simple enough in their beginnings, so that anyone with a pocket-microscope, a japanned tin box for specimens, and a common walking-stick with a hollow ferule turned like the joint of a screw fishing-rod, to receive the handle of a small landing-net, may find his holiday too short to collect examples of all that he may admire in hedge and bank and pond, and the bark and leaves of overhanging trees. If the holiday-maker should shrink from even so much of scientific preparation, let him go out with open eyes, and, taking old White's "Natural History of Selborne" in his pocket, rest beneath a shadowy oak and read a few pages. It will attune him to the scene, if it be any rustic locality in England, and he will go more gently, and with a keener appreciation, through the vast collection of curiosities that we call a "dull walk." Of course to the town dweller a forest ramble offers the greatest attraction. To be lost amidst a tangle of trees and brushwood; to stand almost overpowered by the tremendous stillness that follows our own footsteps crashing through the reeds and grass; then to hear all kinds of tiny sounds wake up, one by one, and to remember that we are surrounded by swift and throbbing life; to hear the rabbits skir, the hum and drone of insects, the splash and croak of frogs, the shrill piping of grasshoppers, the sudden chatter and mellow call of birds, the industrious cabinetwork of the woodpecker, the strange cries that sound overhead in the thicket of boughs and leaves; to see the flush and glow of colour in a bank when we come suddenly upon what Nathaniel Hawthorne called "a gush of violets"; to scent the delicate odour of pale primroses and dainty cowslips; or to linger on the brink of a still pool fringed with forget-me-nots, and rich in the waxen buds and broad, cool leaves of water-lilies. Then to plunge knee-deep into a mass of weeds and grasses, and turning a remote corner, to light upon some strange, solemn place where the stillness is still more profound—some place where there are forest mysteries and strange secrets, secrets of death and life, as where the corpse of a bird lies awaiting the funeral that is performed by stag-beetles and ants, beneath a glowing canopy of leaves and wafting of butterflies' wings, and the incense swung from blue and silver censers, and the muffled, soundless tolling of tiny bells, and the sprinkling of dew-water from clear white-petalled fonts. It was to some such hidden and almost awful forest nook that the artist came who made the picture that appears in our Engraving. A kind of wild sanctuary, too, where a woodman, or keeper, or some rugged but yet impressive man or woman, had, perhaps, been used to kneel and pray; for there, upon the tree that served as altar and canopy, were the rudely-carved symbol and the images of the Virgin and the Child, the great mystery of divine and human love. To such a spot as this, and with this visible symbol, we are not likely to come in a holiday ramble in England; but to the devout and faithful soul there will be no want of a reminder of love, both human and divine, in the still life that seems to link together the quick and the dead in the sign of immortality.

FORESTERS' FETE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

ONE of those great annual gatherings, for which the Order of Foresters has become famous, took place, on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the Crystal Palace, which, with the grounds, was literally taken possession of by an invasion of the sylvan brotherhood and sisterhood from almost all parts of the kingdom. North, south, east, and west the railways were scenes of perpetual bustle at an early hour in the morning to convey the sylvan lodges—or, as the Foresters prefer them being called, "courts"—towards Sydenham, the midland and even some of the northern counties vying with the metropolis in their eagerness to do honour to the fête. Nor were the railways the sole means of conveyance. Hundreds of pleasure-vans and other vehicles of almost all capacities and descriptions thronged the road approaches, and the journey was enlivened by the horn-blowing and other sonorous displays indicative of the exuberant joyousness of the holiday folk. The railway officials certainly had a heavy strain put upon them, as was evinced by the slow pace of many of the trains; but, on the other hand, there was happily no accident to mar the recollection of the day, and nearly all seem to have got to the palace or grounds in time for the commencement of the programme. As is usual at these fêtes, there was a considerable amount of grotesque costuming in the shape of complete Robin Hood suits, green bands, bugles slung from the waist, and other decorations. Though noise, rollicking, and dancing in groups or pairs were much in vogue, the scene was on the whole orderly, and despite the intense heat, which seemed to increase as evening approached, cases of over-indulgence in drink appeared remarkably rare. Both in the palace and the grounds good humour prevailed, and the only palpable discomfort arose from the customary tendency to pushing and bustling at some of the narrower passages connected with the entrances to the building. The arrangements and recreations for the day were varied. At one o'clock there was a grand procession in the grounds of members of the several "courts," in full regalia, with banners, &c.—quite a monster affair. At two the scene in the open air had become extremely vivacious, all the usual outdoor amusements being in full play, and many thousands of persons being scattered over different parts of the grounds. At half-past two the number of visitors officially registered was 58,000, being 4000 in excess of the total admissions on the same occasion last year, and as heavily-laden trains were still rapidly arriving, it is not surprising that over 80,000 was the final aggregate. As may be readily conceived, the question of food was a very serious one. The pressure at the refreshment places was, in fact, too great to be pleasant, and the tables all appeared to be cleared with infinitely more rapidity than they could be replenished. Plates of provisions were carried off in a sort of triumph, apparently to some distant rendezvous, and the buffets were all kept going throughout the afternoon. About a quarter to four, when the keen demands of appetite had been somewhat allayed, there was a display of the great fountains, which glistened beautifully in the blazing sun. Immediately after came Blondin on the high rope—the central point of interest in the numerous entertainments of the day. For nearly an hour the vast multitude kept gazing at the performer with intense interest. Three balloons ascended between five and six o'clock; and, though the day's programme was by no means completed, many of the company then began to make for the rail, the resources of which were tried even more than they had been in the morning and during the middle of the day. In fact, the rush was tremendous, and the dispatch of trains continued up to a very late hour. It ought to be mentioned that the excellent auxiliary bands, among which that of the Coldstream Guards rendered excellent service; and that the entertainments in the

interior of the palace included the Two-headed Nightingale and the American Giant and Giantess, who have become familiar at the West-End. Another and a novel internal attraction was the splendid marine aquarium, at the north end of the building, in which lobsters of the largest size, crabs, shrimps, and other marine animals are to be seen sporting themselves in their native fashion within a foot or two of the eyes of the spectator.

FISHERY REPORTS.

THE IRISH FISHERIES.

THE quantity of salmon, mackerel, and herrings sent from the Irish fisheries to Billingsgate last year consisted of some 50,000 packages, which realised nearly £150,000. The provinces also are accredited with large consignments. The ichthyophagists of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Wolverhampton, and Nottingham consumed 150,000 packages of Irish salmon, herrings, mackerel, and cod, for which they paid over £255,500. If we add to this the consumption of other large manufacturing districts, where no returns are made, it is probable that the aggregate quantity of Irish fish delivered in England last year realised at least £500,000 sterling.

Although the Irish sea fisheries are admitted to be the most productive in the world, still they are not developed to any great extent. We are indebted for the vast supplies of excellent food above recorded, which now finds its way into this country, to the annual migration of the hardy and well-equipped fishermen of Cornwall, Scotland, and the Isle of Man, whose fleets may be seen every summer on the south and east coast of Ireland, where they invariably find a golden harvest, while their Irish competitors, for want of proper appliances, are perforce obliged to be satisfied with the gleanings of their more fortunate brethren, whose large and well-appointed vessels are able to breast the billows, and by shoving out into the deep there find their recompense. But the native fisherman in his small canoe needs must confine himself to the shallow, land-locked bays, wherein there is nothing to be found save inferior portions of the mighty shoals of mackerel and herrings that keep far out at sea, to pursue which with his frail craft were certain death. Hence it is that during the last thirty years the Irish fishermen have been decreasing in numbers, notwithstanding that those fisheries, where prosecuted with suitable appliances, have never been more productive. In the excellent report of the inspectors of Irish fisheries, recently published, we find that since 1846 a decrease of 74,444 fishermen has taken place, and that the entire number of men and boys at present engaged in the Irish fisheries is only 38,629. When the administration of the Irish fisheries laws was intrusted to the Board of Works, twenty-eight years ago, over 100,000 men found remunerative employment in their prosecution; thousands of able seamen were annually draughted from them into our naval and mercantile marine; those fisheries were then the finest nursery for seamen in the world; but the disinclination of that department to administer to their wants, as provided in the Act 5 and 6 Vict., c. 106, by extending to them the herring brand, facilities for curing, &c., caused their flourishing trade to pass out of the country to Scotland, where those essential advantages and requirements were religiously fostered and maintained. This state of things was allowed to continue for a quarter of a century, and when at length the Legislature resolved to take the management of this important branch of our national industry from such an incompetent body and to hand it over to the present inspectors, they found themselves in the unenviable position of having to rectify the blunders and incapacity of their predecessors, going back more than a generation. This almost hopeless task they set about with characteristic energy, but how can it be accomplished when the few fishermen that are left possess neither boats nor gear to follow their vocation? In their first report, issued in 1869, the inspectors came to the conclusion that "no great improvement can be looked for in the sea fisheries until loans are advanced to a portion of the fishermen for the repair and purchase of boats and gear."

To this point they again revert:—"Having visited every part of the coast, and fully informed ourselves of the condition of the fishermen, we unhesitatingly pronounce that if a much longer time is allowed to pass without our suggestions being carried out, the fishing industry will nearly expire on half the coast. Every day's delay will add enormously to the difficulty of restoration, as boats and gear get out of repair, and the owners abandon the pursuit (in many instances their little tracks of ground become absorbed in the large farms near them), and there is less opportunity for the youthful portion of the seacoast population becoming acquainted with the mode of managing boats or capturing fish." They further urge the importance of this step, and observe that "Already in many places the coast may be traversed for miles, even where good shelter exists and fish abound, without a boat being seen. This deplorable state of things is certain to increase if a helping hand be not extended to save this important industry from perishing. Ten to twenty thousand pounds judiciously expended now—not as a gift, but as a loan—would do far more good than a million given away in half a dozen years hence. Indeed, no amount of money, if things be suffered to take their present course, could in that time accomplish what might be done with the outlay of a few thousands, certain to be again nearly refunded to the State." Numerous instances have come under the notice of the inspectors of industrious fishermen being prevented from adequately pursuing their calling for want of a little money to procure materials, for which they could give satisfactory security. The inspectors hold that "it is not too much to estimate that if such men as these were aided, within a few years fully a million's worth more of fish would be put in circulation, tending to promote various other industries, the extinction of an important class would be stayed, and a valuable nursery for the Royal and mercantile marine preserved. That loans could be easily and inexpensively administered, and that little or no loss would be likely to be incurred if due care were observed by the department charged with their administration in obtaining proper security, is fully proved by the operations of the Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor of Ireland." The society here referred to by the inspectors having made several advances to some of the poor fishermen, who always were enabled to find ample security for the sums lent to them, which they always repaid punctually, sufficiently demonstrates the utility of similar assistance as that now proposed, in order to save the moiety of native fishermen that is left from utter extinction. And it should be borne in mind that where those fishermen have been assisted with advances to obtain suitable boats and appliances their exertions have not only equalled, but in some cases actually surpassed, the profits derived by their English, Manx, and Scotch brethren. When we consider the large sums annually advanced in the form of loans for drainage and similar agricultural purposes, we can see no impediment to the proposition advanced by the fishery inspectors. It has been said that the Irish fisherman is proverbially lazy and improvident; but on this point the inspectors say—"As a proof of their industry, capability, and honesty, we may mention that on the east coast some of the Manx boats are commanded by Irish skippers and have Irish crews. Several Irish fishermen, having no boats of their own, go to Scotland and hire themselves to Scotch boatowners during the herring season. An extensive net manufacturer at the Isle of Man frequently gives nets on credit to the east-coast fishermen, and has invariably been paid." Upon the whole, the Irish sea fisheries were never in a more promising condition, and only require extensive development. The oyster-fishing exhibits symptoms of improvement, while in almost every other country this branch of business is languishing. Pilchards abound on the southern coast, where, unfortunately, "the people are unable, for want of sufficient appliances for the capture and cure of fish, to avail themselves fully of the riches brought to their very doors." The herring and mackerel fisheries remain inexhaustible, while the trawlers continue to effect large and remunerative catches.

Passing to the salmon and inland fisheries, the past year has been one of progress in all that relates to these fisheries. The take of fish has been greater than in 1869, and in many places probably much more than in previous years, and there is still every reason to expect that this improvement will go on steadily, as the laws for the protection of the fish during the spawning season are firmly administered. In order to show the progressive improvement that is taking place in the salmon fisheries the inspectors cite many instances of the increasing value of those fisheries. Four miles of a river, sold about four years ago in the Landed Estates Court for £5000, were lately valued at over £45,000. A portion of another river, not exceeding six miles, has been recently sold in the same court for £45,000. Rents of salmon fisheries have in many instances more than trebled. "We do not think we exaggerate the value of the salmon fisheries," say the inspectors, "when we estimate them as being worth over £400,000 a year." Notwithstanding the great drought which prevailed during the greater part of last season, anglers have had no cause to complain. The amount of license duty paid for single rods was £1553, and £239 for "cross-lines." Touching the vexed question of the annual "close season," the practical knowledge of the inspectors in this intricate matter enabled them to adjudicate without fear or favour. In some districts considerable alterations have been made by permitting netting earlier in the year, and prohibiting the same during a portion of the autumn. On this head the inspectors argue that "it is not unreasonable to assume that the 8-lb. fish of August—which to the tidal fisher is only worth, at the most, 6d. per lb., or 4s., if allowed to escape, will, after depositing its spawn and returning again from the sea in the spring—be at least 16 lb. weight, and worth 2s. 6d. per lb., or £2. These are not exaggerated estimates in the increase in either weight or value. The tidal fishermen will have the first fruits of this; and it is to be expected that in the mean time the rod-fishers, after July 15, will have a good harvest for the remainder of their season, when all debts are removed." Beyond doubt this is by far the most important of all the multifarious duties of the inspectors, as a great prejudice must still remain in consequence of the Act of 1842, which fixed a uniform season for the whole of Ireland, not only for angling but also for netting. The principle of uniformity was found to be most erroneous, and inflicted grievous injury, not only on individuals but on rivers; in the one case, by not allowing the fish to be taken in its proper season and finest condition; and in the other, by allowing it to be taken at a time when it was not only perfectly unfit for human food, but when its capture was most destructive to the river. In the six districts where the close season has been altered considerable improvements have already been manifest.

THE SCOTCH SALMON FISHERIES.

Messrs. Buckland and Young, the Special Commissioners appointed by the Home Office to inquire into the effects of recent legislation on the Scotch salmon fisheries, have just issued an interesting and comprehensive report on the subject. The Commissioners have not only furnished us with an account of their personal inspection of almost every river in Scotland, but have also published, in the form of a voluminous appendix, opinions and suggestions of various gentlemen whose names are well known as closely connected with the cultivation of salmon in Scotch waters. Meetings of the different fishery boards throughout the country have been attended by the Commissioners, who have also been in communication with all the principal proprietors and lessees of fisheries, tacksmen, and others interested in the subject. Messrs. Buckland and Young have thus been enabled to place before the public a large mass of valuable evidence, showing how far recent legislation has worked for good or evil in promoting or checking an industry commercially representing thousands of pounds. The Commissioners may, indeed, be congratulated on the speedy and satisfactory manner in which they have performed the arduous task intrusted to them, the report under notice being, perhaps, the most valuable and important official document on the salmon fisheries issued since the report of the Special Commissioners (Sir W. Jardine, Mr. Rickards, and the late Mr. Pfennell) in 1860 on the condition of the English and Welsh salmon rivers.

The Commissioners are of opinion that, although the late Scotch Acts are capable of great improvement, they have, on the whole, worked beneficially. The good results which have accrued to the salmon fisheries from the operation of the Acts of 1862 and 1868 have been most apparent in those parts of the country where the rivers have had the advantage of being placed under the protection of district boards, an advantage which unfortunately appears to be only partially understood through Scotland; for we find that out of the 120 districts formed by the late Commissioners only some thirty boards are at present constituted and working. The further development of the Scotch salmon fisheries appears to be considerably retarded by the existence of formidable natural obstructions to the ascent of fish from the sea to the upper waters. We are told, for instance, that on the Tay the falls of Tummel shut out one hundred miles of valuable spawning ground; the falls of Lochy, Orrin, Conon, Rogie, Shin, Morrison, Monessie, &c., all contribute to place a limit to the spawning-ground of the rivers on which they are respectively situated. The Commissioners are, however, of opinion that at a comparatively small cost most of these formidable barriers might be made available for the passage of salmon, by which means a large area of valuable spawning-ground now lying waste would be opened up and the producing powers of Scotch salmon waters vastly increased. Certain compulsory powers the Commissioners consider should be given to local boards to make these obstructions passable for salmon. In places where natural barriers exist which serve no industrial purpose, but are a hindrance to the improvement of the river, private rights should give way to the public interest. Regarding the artificial obstructions which exist in Scotch waters, the Commissioners say:—"We are of opinion that in most instances the national industries of Scotland dependent upon the existence of weirs are not incompatible with the increase of fish, provided that an element of 'give and take' exists between the owners of the weirs and the proprietors of the fisheries—in other words, some mechanical contrivance should be affixed to weirs so as to utilise all water not required for manufacturing purposes. All water not required during non-working hours should be diverted over the weir, instead of, as is too often the case, being allowed to escape through the by-wash sluice below the weir." Of the artificial obstructions to the increase of salmon in Scotch waters pollutions appear to be the most mischievous. The Commissioners enter fully into this important matter, and point how, in almost every case, pollutions from manufactories can, at little expense, be so dealt with as to cause no injury to the rivers into which they flow; while town sewage can be utilised to a valuable extent, as has been proved in many English and Scotch towns, and thus many rivers which at present hold little or no fish may be made available for salmon.

We are glad to find the Commissioners have referred to the storage and distribution of water. The late dry seasons, coupled with the general increase of land drainage, have proved very injurious to the fisheries of England, Ireland, and Scotland. "If some means of storing and distributing the annual rainfall could be found, it can easily be shown," say the Commissioners, "that the excess of wet months would be amply sufficient to make up for the deficiency of the dry ones, and that by storing up the surplus of the former a supply could be had which would enable salmon to ascend the rivers during the droughts of summer and autumn. But such a means of storage and distribution is at hand in a good many of the fishing districts in Scotland—for a number of our salmon rivers have either the main stream or some of its tributaries connected with lochs—so that the heavy rainfall of the wet months might, without much difficulty, be stored up in these lochs by raising their level by the erection of dams and sluices at their outlet, and thus keeping the water ponded up until the period when the dryness of the season drains the rivers to such an extent that the salmon cannot ascend them at the period when their natural instincts prompt them to do so. Thus, by opening the sluices, an artificial spate might easily be sent down and the

fish enabled to ascend to the upper waters," Mr. James Leslie, C.E., one of the Fishery Commissioners in Scotland, has contributed an important paper on this subject, and has furnished the Commissioners with a valuable table relative to the monthly rainfall in Scotland, which is appended to their report.

The substance of the conclusions arrived at by the Commissioners is briefly this:—That the general effect of recent legislation has been beneficial; that the present period of 168 days' annual close time is, upon the whole, suited to the majority of the salmon rivers in Scotland, but that power should be given to the Secretary of State in some cases to extend this period; that salmon should not be sold, and that increased powers be given for searching for unclean fish; that the weekly close time might with advantage be increased to forty-eight or at least forty-two hours; that no stake or bag net be allowed within half a mile of the mouth of any river, and that in some cases they be removed to a distance of two miles; that restrictions be placed upon stake and bag nets; that the position and number of fixed engines be officially registered, and that no further addition to their number be allowed; that increased powers be given to district boards for making obstructions passable for salmon; that many artificial obstructions might be removed without interfering with any industries; that those clauses in the existing Acts relating to pollutions should be amended and made more stringent; that restrictions be placed upon net and coble fishing; that increased powers be given for the protection of rivers; and that Government inspectors be appointed for Scotland, to visit and report annually upon the fisheries of that country.

The Solway difficulty is reported upon by each of the Commissioners separately, their opinions on the subject differing in some respects.

As before stated, the report under notice is a valuable official document, and we find Messrs. Buckland and Young quite opposed to the system of local control and other mischievous propositions for fishery management which were so prominently brought forward in the bills lately introduced into the House of Commons relating to the English and Irish salmon fisheries. From the complete manner in which the Commissioners have laid before us the condition of the Scotch salmon waters, and the valuable suggestions they have given for future legislation, there ought to be no difficulty in framing a new Scotch Salmon Fishery Act.

NEW BUILDINGS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

The scaffolding has not long been removed from the fine front belonging to the science schools of the South Kensington Museum. The new building is an architectural success. Besides showing us what the museum will be when completed in the same style, its effective combination of brick and terra-cotta may give London builders some hints and London citizens some hopes of better things than lath and plaster and stucco. The contrast between our West-End streets and squares as they are and as they might be may be judged by the contrast between Mr. Freke's row of what are called "fine houses" in the existing style at Prince's-gate and this front, with its variety of form and colour, its cast of light and shadow. Mr. Freke's houses appeared rather good specimens of street architecture till this building rose up by their side—not without its faults, it is true, but with merits which put to shame the sham columns and entablatures, the flat and cold exterior, of the fashionable gate.

The general scheme for the South Kensington Museum has been sanctioned, and is to cost, we believe, some £400,000, towards which Parliament has hitherto voted grants of about £25,000 a year. These new science schools have been three years in building, have cost £42,000, and will cost about £8000 more before they are finished. They are intended to be connected by an arcade with another similar block of museums and offices, also facing the same side of Exhibition-road. The vacant space opposite is to be appropriated to a natural history museum, which is to be joined to the existing buildings by a sort of Bridge of Sighs crossing the road at the upper end of the science schools. The premium for a design for the natural history museum had been awarded to Captain Fowke; but after his death Mr. Waterhouse was requested to prepare another design, which will be Gothic, and thus, it is to be feared, a violent and dangerous contrast to the South Kensington buildings—a contrast which Captain Fowke had carefully avoided.

The new science schools are built of brick founded on concrete, the lowest and the highest stories being faced with blocks of terra-cotta. The treatment of the body of the building is red brick facing dressed with terra-cotta in plain and moulded blocks, and the first thing which strikes the eye is the deep rich red of the brickwork and the play of colour in its surface, rendering it agreeable to look upon and redeeming it from monotony. There is still some softness in it on the most glaring day, and still some warmth on the most gloomy. The bricks are Fareham bricks, such as have been used in St. Thomas's Hospital, and the rich colour is produced by rubbing their outer surfaces smooth to a gauge on a revolving metal table, a process which about doubles their cost. The courses are laid with great nicety; common mortar is not spread upon them with a trowel, but each brick is dipped in a tub of a fine liquid compound, and then placed in position. Colonel Scott, C.B., R.E., is the architect of the building, and his chief idea in designing the Exhibition-road front has been to obtain a good bold contrast of light and shadow. To this end, parts of the building are brought into massive projection. The wings come forward and are tied together by terra-cotta arcades above and below. The upper part of the lower arcade forms a balcony to the first floor, and the interiors of its arches are filled in with majolica, which brightens the deep recesses and throws light into the rooms. In the terra-cotta columns which support this arcade are three ornamented drums. The subject of the design on each of the drums is the Seven Ages of Man; each is the same as the others, but is slightly turned, so that from one point of view we can see the whole design, from the infant on the uppermost drum to the aged man on the lowest. The drums are separated by spaces of moulded shaft, on which is laid a branch of the small-leaved laurel. The window openings of the second and third floors are bordered with terra-cotta. The under part of the upper arcade which runs along the highest story is well supported and richly worked, and one has to look close to notice the want of that sharpness which is so great a beauty in stone. This topmost story is faced entirely with terra-cotta, which causes it to sit rather heavily and awkwardly on the abruptly-terminated brickwork of the body of the building. The eye requires that the brickwork should have been carried to the summit in places, and this need is the fault of the building. The pediments of the wings are to be filled in with encaustic tesserae, and the spaces left bare under the windows of the ground floor will be ornamented with iron grilles.

This building is an excellent example of the effective use which may be made of terra-cotta in conjunction with brickwork. Terra-cotta, being plastic and richly modelled without extra expense, is apt to tempt the designer into a florid style. Some of the work in this front appears over-rich for its purpose; but most of it reflects the greatest credit on the modellers, who were all South Kensington students. The drums on the pillars of the lower arcade are a testimony to the skill of Mr. Godfrey Sykes, who died, all too soon, in 1865; and, whoever be the author, some diaper-work in the upper arcade is exceedingly pretty. All the mouldings of the buildings were run out full size and the enrichments put on in the schools; from these the manufacturer made the moulds for the blocks of terra-cotta, which, of course, lack the clear finished appearance of masonry, but are exceedingly effective, nevertheless. We must not forget to say that the back of the building is partly, and will be entirely, decorated with incised plaster-work. This work is simple and inexpensive, and might be used with great advantage on many of our London exteriors. A layer of black cement is

covered with a layer of white, and the white is cut through, so as to expose the black, according to the pattern of the design. The only pity is that the back of the science schools has no better look-out to show itself to than a brick wall a few feet off.

HOSPITAL BATHS.

A KNOWLEDGE of the bath as a curative is more appreciated perhaps on the Continent and in the East than in our own land. Yet this agent is admitted to be a sovereign remedy for many of the ills that flesh is heir to, as the frequent migrations to the sulphur and mineral springs of Germany and America fully testify. But these latter are only within the reach of the affluent, and it remained for art to discover a substitute for the use of the less fortunate of mankind. This she did long, long ago; but unhappily to this day none of our large hospitals are furnished with it in the shape of a proper or complete series of medicated baths, although it is known there are innumerable diseases that will only yield to that form of treatment. Even the costly St. Thomas's Hospital is unprovided with these simple appliances, and until the present time no institution of the kind in the metropolis could be pointed to as possessing perfect bath accommodation. It was left for University College Hospital, which has frequently led the way in these matters of medical reform, to be the first to set the example of supplying this very serious omission in hospital organisation. Under the direction of Dr. Tilbury Fox, the physician to the ward specially set apart for the treatment of diseases of the skin, there has just been added to the hospital a spacious and well-furnished bath-house, that will very likely mark the opening of a new era in the treatment of cutaneous disorders. Indeed, to the individual energy of this gentleman alone is due the honour and credit of having secured the funds wherewith to confer this boon upon the poor, and, in fact, as no doubt the result will prove, upon the public at large. The bath building consists of two distinct parts or sections, having separate entrances; one for the treatment of contagious skin complaints by the use of various fumigations; the other devoted to the simple body, hip, douche, needle, vapour, and Turkish bath. In the first there are four distinct chambers, one 15 ft. by 12 ft., containing the liquid sulphur bath, mercurial, acid, iodine vapour boxes, and boxes for soaking or fumigating an arm or a leg, as the case may require—all supplied with gas and steam apparatus. Adjoining this room is a high partitioned-off recess, 7 ft. by 4 ft., for cleansing patients suffering from itch, after the necessary local applications are made; and it is affirmed that, as at Paris, the cure in each case will be effected at a single sitting. Next to this recess, but quite shut off from it, is a disinfecting chamber for purifying the clothes of these patients, and ample and ingenious precautions are taken to carry off and discharge all impurities through a special shaft. This chamber can be heated up to 300 deg. if found necessary. Close to this is another small chamber, shut off with double doors, for sulphur, mercurial, or iodine fumigations, with the requisite flues for carrying away all deleterious properties. The bath building is well warmed and ventilated. No paint has been used, the walls being cemented throughout, while strict precautions have been taken to drain it, and provide a good out-fall into the main sewer. The general bath-hall is about 30 ft. by 27 ft., and contains four porcelain baths, a special needle-bath, douche-baths of various forces and shapes, and a dressing platform 14 ft. by 10 ft. Annexed to this is a plunge-bath and a Turkish bath, which can be employed either as a hot or a hot vapour bath, special care being taken to avoid ironwork in its construction, and to secure heat by radiation, accompanied by an adequate supply of fresh air. The whole interior of the building, with its tessellated flooring, presents a light and cheerful appearance. Mr. M. P. Manning, of Mitre-court-chambers, was the architect who designed it, to carry out Dr. Tilbury Fox's views, and Messrs. Jeakes and Co., the well-known engineers, undertook the contract for the work, which they have executed *con amore*, sparing no pains to render this first complete series of hospital medical baths a success. Dr. Tilbury Fox has already effected numberless cures of bad cutaneous affections, but with the aid of these baths he hopes not only to add to his own usefulness but to increase the popularity of the hospital, which is no less celebrated for its medical schools than the good it confers on the suffering poor.

THE LORDS AND THE BALLOT BILL.—On Tuesday night a meeting was held in the Market place, Leicester, under the auspices of the Democratic Society, to protest against the rejection of the Ballot Bill by the House of Lords. The Rev. A. Macdonald, Unitarian Minister, presided. The first resolution protested against the rejection of the Ballot Bill by the House of Lords without discussing its principle, and disputed the right of the House of Lords to reject bills which have been passed by large majorities in the Commons as being inconsistent with the representative system, and a source of public grievance, which is dangerous to the stability of our institutions, and which ought to be checked. The second resolution was, "That it is the duty of the Government in the ensuing Session to bring in the Ballot Bill as first introduced, and to use all legitimate means to carry it through the Lords." The third resolution condemned the rejection by the Commons of the 18th clause, and recommended that a conference of Radical Reformers be held to take into consideration what should be done with the House of Lords. The second resolution was seconded by Mr. George Odger, of London, who said he thought the revisers of the Bible should make a well-known passage read, "The earth is the land of the living, and the fulness thereof," for both the Houses of Lords and Commons were houses of landlording for the protection of vested interests.

THE POPE'S JUBILEE.—An encyclical letter from the Pope, addressed to "all Patriarchs, Primate, Archbishops, Bishops, and other ordinaries in the Communion of the Apostolic See," was read by order of Archbishop Manning at high mass on Sunday in all the Roman Catholic churches and chapels of the metropolis and its neighbourhood. It announced the fact that during the past week the Pontificate of his Holiness had actually exceeded that of St. Peter—viz., twenty-five years, two months, and nine days; it thanked the Roman Catholic prelates for their prayers and for those of "the faithful," at a time "when we have been deprived of our city, the capital of the whole Christian world," and for the "frequent demonstrations with which they have affirmed the inviolable rights which, with incredible audacity, have been and continue to be trampled under foot." The Pope then adds his "acknowledgments for the coming together of so many of the faithful from all parts to Rome to console him and turn his sorrow into joy," and for the promptitude with which "the poor as well as the rich of all Christian countries have endeavoured to aid the poverty to which we have been reduced." He adds, "With hands and eyes uplifted to Heaven, we offer to God all that has been given to us by our children in His name," and that his constant prayer is that "God will bestow on them in return, both in this world and in the next, that rich reward which we cannot give for all their good wishes for the peace of the world, the victory of the Church, and the liberty of the Holy See;" and he concludes by urging the prelates of Christendom to keep united to each other, so as "to present a compact array to the enemies of God, who with new stratagems and violence assail the Church, which never can be destroyed by any human agency."

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY IN GLASGOW.—The Earl of Shaftesbury was presented with the freedom of the city of Glasgow on Monday. In his speech the noble Earl, after duly acknowledging the value of the honour conferred upon him, enlarged upon various social topics, and told a story showing the Duke of Wellington's feeling about war. Very many years ago (Lord Shaftesbury said) he was driving through Hertfordshire with the old Duke of Wellington in his carriage. It was a beautiful summer evening, the sun was shining, and everything looked flourishing and joyous. The Duke was silent for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes. At the end of that time he said—"I will tell you what I have been thinking about. I have been contemplating this very beautiful country, and I have been thinking what a curse war is. Suppose," he said, "I had to take military possession of this district; I should have to lay low every beautiful thing which you see here. Take my word for it," said that old veteran, the hero of a hundred battles, "take my word for it, if you had seen but one day of war you would pray to Almighty God that you might never see such a thing again." He could not but feel, amid all the terrible threats that we hear, what dangers overhang this our country, and yet at the same time he was encouraged when he thought of the grand old Scotch motto around the Scotch thistle, "Nemo me impune lacessit," which means, in simple language, this—"Just you let me alone, for if you don't I will give you quite as good as you bring." That he owned to be the character of Scotchmen and the character of Englishmen. Their language was the language of defence, and not of aggression. That was the position they should occupy, and they should never resort to war except it was absolutely necessary for the safety and honour of the realm.

NEW ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

THE Act to make further provisions for the dispatch of business by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which received the Royal Assent on the day of the prorogation, provides that her Majesty may, within twelve months after the passing of the Act, by warrant, appoint four qualified persons, whether already members of the Judicial Committee or not, to act as members of the Judicial Committee under the Act, and may from time to time, within two years after the passing of the Act, by a like warrant, fill any vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise in the offices of the persons so appointed. At the time of the appointments "any persons appointed to act under the provisions of the Act" must be or have been Judges of one of "her Majesty's Superior Courts at Westminster, or a Chief Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, or Madras, or Bombay, or of the late Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal." On a Judge being appointed under the Act he is to vacate his office as such Judge, but as to pension shall remain in the same position as if no such appointment had been made, and service as a member of the Judicial Committee is for the purpose of pension to be reckoned as service in the court from which he was removed. The pension of the Judge of the Probate and Divorce Court is declared to be in all respects similar to the pensions of the Puisne Judges of the Superior Courts. "There shall be paid to each of the said Judges of the Judicial Committee so long as he shall hold such office a salary of £5000 a year, including any pensions to which he may be entitled." The salaries are to be chargeable on the Consolidated Fund. "It shall be the duty of every person appointed to act as a paid member of the Judicial Committee under this Act to attend the sitting of the said Committee when summoned thereto, unless he shall be prevented by reasonable cause; and such members shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and shall continue to hold their offices notwithstanding the demise of the Crown; but they shall be removable by her Majesty, her heirs and successors, upon the address of both Houses of Parliament, provided always that they shall hold their offices subject to such arrangements as may be hereafter made by Parliament for the constitution of a Supreme Court of Appellate Jurisdiction." No member of the Judicial Committee is to take part in the hearing of an appeal from any decision or judgment which he has given or assisted in giving. The term "Superior Courts at Westminster" means her Majesty's Superior Courts of Law and Equity at Westminster, inclusive of the Court of Probate in England and the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes and the High Court of Admiralty of England. The Act, except as especially provided, is not to affect the Act William IV., cap. 41, on the Judicial Committee, and is to be construed so far as is consistent as one with any Acts for the time being in force relating to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

THE METROPOLIS WATER ACT.

Last Saturday was issued the Act to amend the Metropolis Water Act, 1852, and to make further provision for the due supply of water to the metropolis and certain places in the neighbourhood thereof. There are fifty-one sections in the Act and three schedules. The object of the statute, as expressed in the preamble, is to make further provision for securing to the metropolis a constant supply of pure and wholesome water. It is with the recited Act (15 and 16 Vict., c. 84) to be construed as one Act. "From and after the passing of this Act (Aug. 21) every company shall, on Sundays as on other days, supply sufficient pure and wholesome water for the domestic use of the inhabitants within their water limits." After eight months from the passing of the Act every company, when required so to do in the manner directed, is to provide and keep throughout its water limits a constant supply of water for domestic purposes, and make such water reach the top story. After six months from the passing the metropolitan authority may make application for a constant supply within such district, and when not provided an appeal is given to the Board of Trade. There are various regulations set forth in the statute, which are to be published, and penalties to be recovered for non-compliance. The companies may require owners and occupiers to provide proper "fittings," which term includes communication-pipes, and also all pipes, cocks, cisterns, &c., used or intended for supply of water by a company to a consumer, and for that purpose placed in or about the premises of the consumer. Power is given to enter premises for the inspection and repair of the fittings. There are provisions as to fireplugs. The Board of Trade may appoint persons to inquire and report on the quality of the water. There are various other provisions to carry out the preamble, and there is a section that an incoming tenant is not to pay the arrears of the outgoing tenant unless by express agreement. The schedules annexed to the statute explain the metropolitan authority, the districts, and the companies mentioned in the Act.

THE RESERVE FORCES.—We are pleased to learn that it is the intention of the War Office shortly to call upon all volunteer officers to qualify or resign. This announcement will no doubt be received with greater satisfaction than among the volunteers themselves. The War Office is taking steps to put a stop to the "double commission" system. Several Line officers have been called upon to tender the resignation of commissions held by them in the reserves. Those officers holding rank in more than one branch of the reserve forces are called upon to elect with which service they intend to act.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

NEW RATES OF POSTAGE ON INLAND LETTERS.—On Oct. 5 next the following reduced rates of postage will come into operation:—For a letter not exceeding 1 oz., 1d.; exceeding 1 oz., but not exceeding 2 oz., 1½d.; exceeding 2 oz., but not exceeding 4 oz., 2d.; exceeding 4 oz., but not exceeding 6 oz., 2½d.; exceeding 6 oz., but not exceeding 8 oz., 3d.; exceeding 8 oz., but not exceeding 10 oz., 3½d.; exceeding 10 oz., but not exceeding 12 oz., 4d. Any letter exceeding the weight of 12 oz. will be liable to a postage of 1d. for every ounce, beginning with the first ounce. It must be distinctly understood that these rates will not begin to take effect before Oct. 5.

PERILOUS FALL FROM A CLIFF.—On Sunday evening last a young woman, named Ann Pomeroy, had a most marvellous escape from death. The girl is a nursemaid to Mrs. Owen, at present on a visit to some friends at Guildford. She was out with Mrs. Owen's little girl at a picturesque spot called the Echo Pits, about a mile distant from the town. The pits are disused chalk pits, and are in some places 150 ft. in depth. On the little girl pointing to a tempting cluster of blackberries, the nurse tried to reach them, and fell over the cliff. Her fall was broken by an elder-tree, from which she was suspended for a second or two, and then fell to the bottom. The girl was conveyed to the Royal Surrey County Hospital on a stretcher, where it was found that she had apparently only received a scalp wound and some bruises about the body.

TEMPERANCE CONFERENCE.—A temperance meeting was held, on Tuesday, in St. James's Hall—Earl Russell in the chair. His Lordship said there was no doubt but that any measure dealing in a comprehensive way with the liquor traffic would require great consideration, looking at all the important interests involved. The Government measure introduced last Session was very unsatisfactory, and the manner in which the question was treated by the Government was still more unsatisfactory. He had heard with much pleasure that a measure dealing with the subject of intemperance would be introduced into Parliament early next Session. An amendment was moved in favour of an entire prohibition of liquor traffic, and carried. Earl Russell, upon this, said the other resolutions which had been prepared would not be proposed; and the meeting then collapsed.

POLES IN PARIS.—Count Zamoycki has published a letter stating that he recently applied to Lord Lyons, the British Ambassador at Paris, for a passport for a Pole in no way connected with politics, and that the request was refused. Count Zamoycki, in another letter addressed to Lord Lyons, explains why he made his application. In consequence of the late troubles in France, all the Polish exiles there are compelled to be furnished with regular passports. They cannot ask the Russian Government for one; they have no political independence; and suddenly, while enjoying the hospitality offered to them, they find themselves caught in a trap, without even the liberty of leaving the country. The Count says he knows a case in which one of his countrymen, escaping from the Communists, was arrested by the present French Government for want of a passport, and is still pining in gaol, notwithstanding every effort on his behalf. Under these circumstances, the refusal of Lord Lyons having, he says, a political significance, all that can be done is to bow to it, leaving the fact to be inserted in the history of the recent events.



REMINISCENCES OF THE FIGHTING BEFORE METZ: THE ADVANCED POST AT MALMAISON, FROM WHICH KING WILLIAM WATCHED THE BATTLE.

THE BATTLE-FIELDS BEFORE METZ.

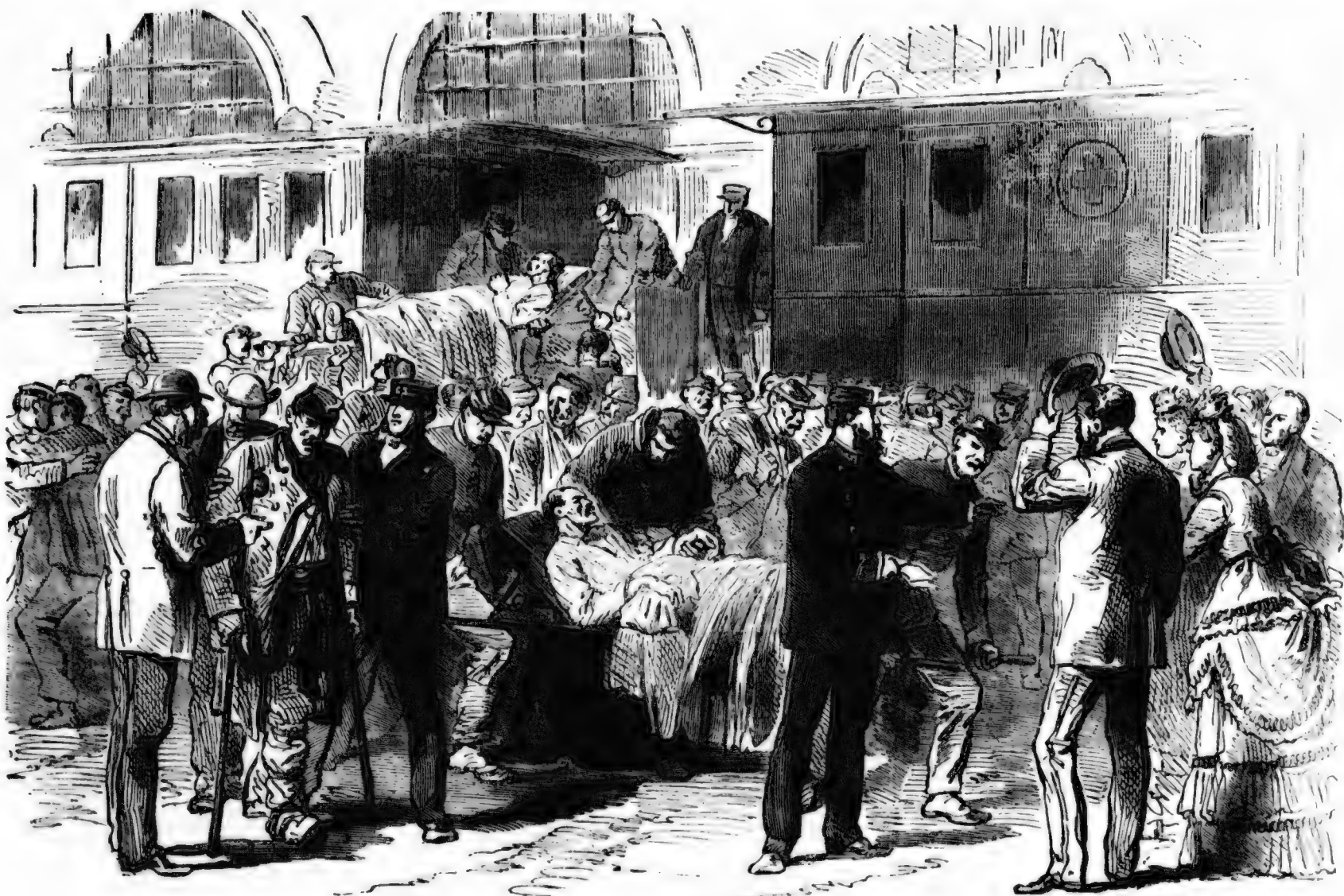
We last week published some Engravings showing the graveyards of the late war at Weissenburg and St. Mary-aux-Chenes, near Metz. Those scenes are of great interest; but so are the battle-fields themselves; and accordingly our Artists have sent us some sketches of them, which we lay before our readers. We do not know if the "red rain" so plentifully poured upon the ground at Vionville and Gravelotte has made the harvest grow. We doubt it, for we hardly think much tillage has yet taken place in the neighbourhood of those sanguinary scenes; but, as will be seen, the surface retains but few traces of the terrible work that took place there little more than one short year ago. The battles of Vionville (or Mars-la-Tour) and Gravelotte were fully described in our columns at the time, but perhaps it may be well to refresh the reader's recollection by a few extracts from the letters of Sir Randal H. Roberts to the *Telegraph*, which he has recently republished under the title of "Modern War; or, the Campaigns of the First Prussian Army, 1870-1." Of the fights on Aug. 17 and 18 Sir Randal says:—

"Prince Frederick Charles crossed the Moselle at Pont-à-Mousson on the morning of Aug. 14 at 8 a.m. The 8th Army Corps, under General von Goben, crossed the same river at Arry, and advanced upon the town of Gorze. When I arrived in Gorze

the engagement (of Aug. 17) had already commenced; and, in order to explain to you the manoeuvres, I must give you a short sketch of the ground and of the plateau upon which this—as yet the most sanguinary—engagement of the campaign took place. Gorze is a town about ten miles from Metz, containing some 1500 inhabitants. It is surrounded by high hills, which in the direction of Metz are covered with a thick fringe of woods. About two miles from the town of Gorze a sort of undulating plateau extends to the villages of Rezonville and Gravelotte, through which passes the high road from Metz to Verdun. This plateau was the scene of the fearful carnage, and on its outskirts in the direction of Metz the dropping fire of the outposts still tells that the morrow's sun may rise upon another bloody field. Due south of the ground upon which the action of Mars-la-Tour took place is a deep valley, through the middle of which winds the road to the Moselle, and up which Prince Frederick Charles advanced unmolested and even unknown to within a mile of Gorze.

"Prince Frederick Charles commenced his attack with cavalry between Mars-la-Tour and Vionville, sacrificing nearly the whole of the Dragoons of the Guard to a mad impetuosity, the Colonel of this gallant regiment, when ordered to attack, turned

round to his regiment, and saying, 'Remember, children, this is no fault of mine, I hold myself blameless.' Poor fellow! he never returned; the regiment was cut almost to pieces. The action commenced by the attack of the 3rd Corps on the French advance, whilst the 7th Corps, marching out of Gorze, attacked in flank towards Rezonville. The intention of the French was to march upon Châlons, and in this movement they were checked by the rapid advance of the 3rd Corps d'Armée, under Prince Frederick Charles. The 11th Regiment (Prussian) deployed in front of the wood surrounding Gorze, having marched up the road from that town to Metz, while the 35th Regiment and the 72nd continued the line to the left. The French batteries immediately opened with shells, and in a few moments the woods which covered the advance of the Prussians seemed to be in a perfect hurricane of bursting shells, telling severely upon the advancing Prussians. No sooner did the right battalion of the 11th emerge and deploy than the French Chasseurs and Line opened fire at 700 yards; and fearfully effective was the discharge—so much so that this gallant regiment lost their Colonel and five officers, besides a considerable number of men. They then retired into the wood, until the whole line could advance together, the French shells meanwhile inflicting fearful loss upon the



RETURN OF THE FRENCH PRISONERS FROM GERMANY: ARRIVAL OF WOUNDED.

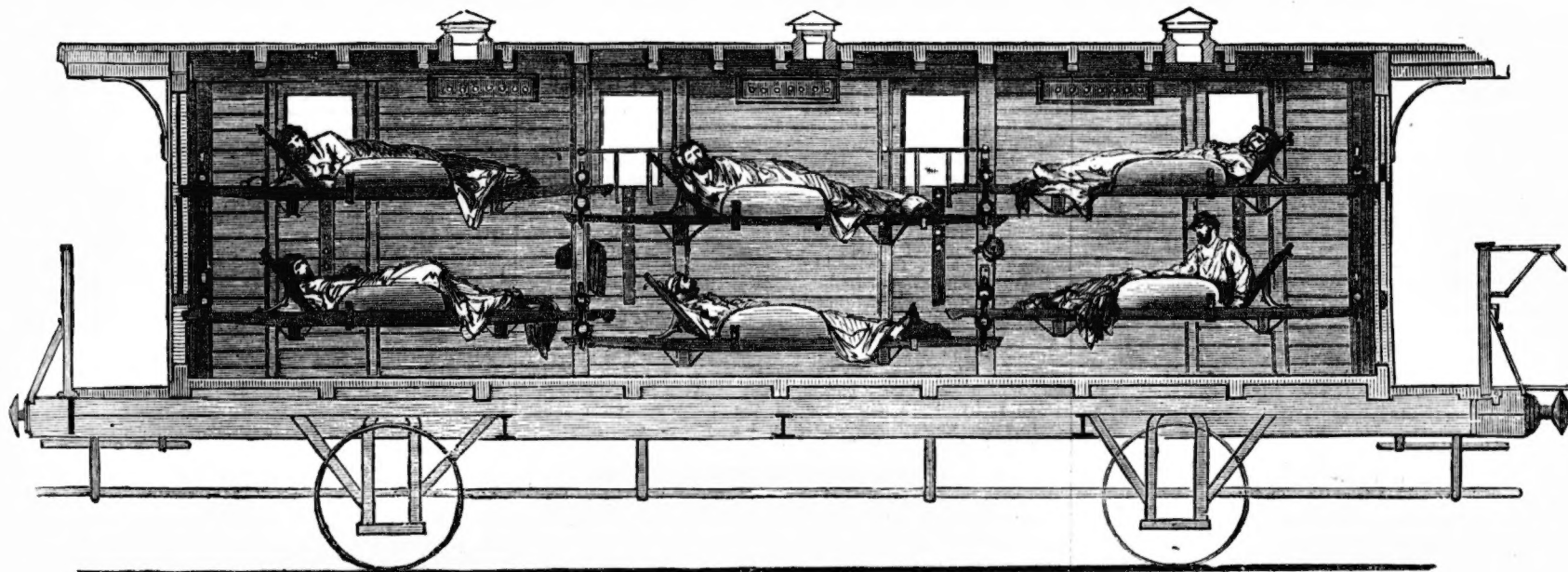
troops advancing, although under a screen of foliage. Whenever the Prussian advance appeared the French troops opened a crushing fire, the assailants falling, literally, in heaps; but, 'Immer vorwärts' was the cry, and, under a storm of shot and shell, the gallant third division, led by the troops I have above mentioned, advanced to meet the foe. For full an hour they fired at one another from a distance of fifty paces, the French, who had not till now suffered much, losing many men. The first line of the French troops then gradually retired, and three regiments of the Garde Impériale for the moment stood the brunt of the Prussian advance, almost alone in their glory. Here the Prussian line was strengthened thus. General von Göben, hearing the heavy firing, long and continued, and knowing the weakness of the Prince's command, took upon himself to order up the sixteenth division of the 8th Corps, composed of the 40th and 70th Regiments, the 9th Hussars, and the artillery, marching through the town of Gorze and up the Metz road, deployed to the left of the 7th Corps just at the moment when the Guard had gained a slight advantage. As the leading files of the 40th emerged out of the wood, they faced the premier Grenadier de la Garde, who poured in such a fire that the leading companies were almost swept away, the adjutant and many officers wounded, and the Colonel killed. But Major Hobleben led on the second battalion, the third followed close upon its footsteps, and at twenty to thirty paces the fire was something fearful. At length the Guard had to give way, and fell back to the village of Gravelotte. The action had now lasted some six hours; the dead, the dying, and the wounded incumbered the ground in every direction; while the blazing rays of a hot autumnal sun fell with fearful force upon the unprotected wounded. The Prussians now disengaged some batteries of artillery from the Metz road, and plied the retreating, but still stubborn, French forces with shells, inflicting the most frightful wounds. Up to nine at night the French guns still sullenly rolled forth their fearful music, until darkness wrapped the scene of carnage in obscurity. Then rose the moon, and the plain awakened to the awful cries of the wounded—so piteous, especially to the soldier. The Prussian loss and that of the French in this action is something too awful to contemplate in so small a space; for in an area of one square mile and a half quite 10,000 men had been put hors de combat.



RETURN OF THE FRENCH PRISONERS FROM GERMANY: RECEPTION-ROOM AT THE STATION.

"After the engagement of the 17th the Prussians held the village of Rezonville, which was occupied by the outposts of the 8th Army Corps. The French held a position on the ridge above the road between Metz and Thionville, still keeping open the road to Paris, their right resting on St. Privat-la-Montagne to the right of Gravelotte, about two miles distant, and their left upon the road into Metz above the village of Rozerieulles. The position of the Prussian army was as follows: Their centre, consisting of the 8th and 9th Army Corps, was massed in rear of the village of Gravelotte; their right, composed of the 7th Army Corps, lay concealed in the woods between Gorze and Gravelotte; whilst their left, formed by the 3rd and 4th Army Corps, with the division of Guards and the 10th Corps, occupied the woods to the left of the latter place, stretching away to

rifle-pits, rained a tremendous fire of shot and shell upon the advancing Prussians. Now, to the left of the village of Gravelotte and in front of the French position there lay a small hamlet called Malmaison—no inappropriate name for such a locality. Here the Prussians suffered severely, the French shot and mitrailleuse cutting them down, and, after setting a house on fire, compelling them to retire and take ground to their left. A regiment of Prussian lancers, hoping to make some prisoners, now charged down the front of the Prussian advance, but were beaten back with severe loss. After three hours' hard fighting, the Prussians gained some half mile in advance of Gravelotte, and occupied the now smoking hamlet of Malmaison, with the farms of St. Hubert and Mosau. At 4.30 the cavalry division advanced to the front, and the 7th Division made good their ground



SECTION OF A HOSPITAL RAILWAY WAGON.

to the right, but not one inch did they gain upon the French. Battalion after battalion was sent to the front, only to be shot down by the French in their, so to say, artificial position. The village of Gravelotte presented a frightful spectacle—the dead, the dying, and the wounded filling the houses and cumbering the roads. Meantime the attack on the French right had again commenced, the Prussian Guards taking the village of St. Privat-la-Montagne with fearful loss, the 3rd, 4th, and 10th Corps making good their advance also, and forcing the French back towards Plappeville from Amanvillers and Roncourt. A demonstration on the French left upon Ars-sur-Moselle had not proved successful; but the Prussians still held the farms of Mosau, St. Hubert, and the hamlet of Point-du-Jour; in fact, their centre had not budged, both sides firing at one another doggedly from their respective shelters. At 5.30 a fresh supply of ammunition was borne to the front, the clattering train galloping through the badly-paved street of Gravelotte, and adding to the din of the bursting shells and rattle of musketry; and so the sanguinary conflict continued until 6.30, when the cannonade slackened and eventually subsided into a dropping fire, from which the Prussians suffered worse than their opponents.

"I had got about 200 yards from the old mill, and was talking to an officer, when a tremendous fire of chassepots and shells was opened, and by the light of the blazing shells I could see a French column advancing upon the Prussians. In a moment the state of affairs seemed changed. Two Prussian guns were deserted, their men flying to the rear. The front line of the Prussians gave way; there was no order, for in the engagement of the afternoon the regiments had got so mixed together that it was impossible to distinguish them; and a confused mass of wounded soldiers, hussars, doctors, artillerymen, and hospital conveyances came flying back through the streets of Gravelotte. The French advance was splendid, and, had they gone on, the village of Gravelotte would have fallen into their hands. The Prussian guns on the right and left of Gravelotte, however, stood firm, and poured a rapid fire upon the French; but it did not seem their object to come any farther, for, after clearing the front of their position, they retired. The second division, which had remained in reserve all day, now came up, in masses

relieving the worn-out troops who had been fighting all day, and taking Mosau, Point-du-Jour, and St. Hubert with a rush, driving the French from their position and forcing them back upon Metz by way of Longeau, Lissy, and Rozerieulles.

"Thus ended the second great battle in front of Metz, which has been called the battle of Gravelotte. Its result was to force Bazaine into Metz and to prevent most effectually his junction with M'Mahon."

RETURN OF WOUNDED FRENCH SOLDIERS FROM GERMANY.

THE French Society for the Aid of the Sick and Wounded has now good work to do in receiving the soldiers who are returning

from Germany, and tending those who need the aid of nursing and medical skill. Our illustrations will serve to show how admirably many of the provisions of this institution are adapted to the relief of the poor fellows who have just arrived in France, and all their appliances were actively engaged for the reception of the large body of wounded soldiers which reached the railway station at Lille a few days ago. This was said to have been the last "sanitary" train bearing the final company of those who require special arrangements for their transport in consequence of their serious injuries. Everything was ready for their reception. A committee of ladies, composed of the Countess de Goyon, the Marquise de Gabriac, of Berlin, and Madame Lefevre, at Munich, undertook the requisite attentions to the poor travellers at various stations on the route.

This convoy was the sixth organised by the commission of the society for this purpose, and was provided under very great difficulties by gentlemen appointed by the Minister for War, in conjunction with Baron Dr. Mundy, Count Serrurier, and M. Albert Ellisien.

The invalid soldiers arrived at Lille from all parts of Germany—Königsberg, Hamburg, Danzig, Posen, Glatz, Neisse, Cologne, Glogau, Castrui, Hanover, and other places; so that the task of transporting them was one of no small difficulty. There were altogether some 5000 returned soldiers, sick or wounded; but the committee already spoken of arranged all the details in Paris, and the work was successfully completed. This committee consisted, beside the gentlemen already mentioned, of Dr. Chenu, Baron Dr. Larrey, Dr. Regnaud, Count Beaufort, and M. Alexander Ellisien. The staff of the sanitary train, who did the important service connected with the transport of the men, were Dr. Planchon, chief surgeon, and Doctors Bauer, Baufve, Ludwig, and Robin. The delegates were MM. Berthier, Durassie, Monnecove, and Renou. The commissariat, which included food, medicine, &c., was under the charge of M. Pontes, while the almoners were M. L'Abbé de Bréon, L'Abbé Lerebours, and the R. P. Marie. The train also contained twenty-five nurses, five cooks, and two or three attendants. The organisation was perfect. Complete kitchens occupied two of the compartments of the train, while three were devoted to the stores. One carriage was a surgery and dispensary, twenty-five



REMOVAL OF INVALIDS BY THE AMBULANCES OF BARON MUNDAY.

long compartments were fitted with two tiers of beds, or twelve beds in each car, and three carriages were occupied by the doctors and almoners. Communication existed from one end of the train to the other by intervening lobbies, and the arrangements were admirably carried out. Our Engravings will serve to illustrate the method adopted, and the excellent contrivances for the complete comfort of the sick, who were placed lengthwise on the beds in the carriages, their couches being held at the corners by thick india-rubber bands, so as to prevent any concussion or undue shaking during the passage of the train. Each wagon was attended by one or more nurses, according to the necessities of the patients, while one doctor and one delegate were on duty each succeeding quarter of an hour. The meals were served punctually at the proper hours, since they could be cooked and distributed during the journey. At Lille the convey was received by the superintendent and his deputy, as well as the principal surgeon of the military hospital and a deputation from the society. The necessary steps were then at once taken to remove the invalids, the society having sent special carriages from Paris, the invention of Baron Dr. Mundy. These are so constructed as to receive four patients lying and three seated, or twelve who are able to occupy seats. Our Engraving represents one of them as it appeared at Lille. It is impossible to imagine anything more complete than these ambulances, which were invented during the siege of Paris, and one cannot help thinking of the difference between these provisions for the sick and wounded and the neglect and suffering that characterised the older wars, of which the Erckmann-Chatrian novels give us such vivid details.

MUSIC.

The promenade concerts of M. Rivière are a pleasant break in the silence (so far as music is concerned) of a London August, and that they are a welcome boon to the lovers of "sweet sounds" is proved by the crowds which nightly throng the huge arena of Covent-Garden Theatre. On Tuesday a selection from Verdi's opera, "Il Trovatore," was given, and was so thoroughly relished by the audience that a unanimous encore followed. Rossini's brilliant overture, "Semiramide," was splendidly played and vigorously applauded. Auber's overture, "Le Serment," Prince Poniatowski's spirited march, "The Return of Richard Cœur de Lion," and a grand fantasia, entitled "The Siege of Paris," arranged for orchestra, military band, and chorus, were also given. Vieuxtemps's solo for violin, "Faust," was so well played by Mdlle. Jenny Claus that she was called back to repeat it; a like result followed the playing of one of Liszt's pianoforte solos by Mdlle. Carrena. Mr. A. Lincoln played a solo on his novel instrument, the crystalphonon, which was vociferously encored. Mdlle. Liebhart introduced a new song by Guglielmo, entitled "The Lover and the Star," which so pleased the audience that she had no alternative but to repeat it. Madame Lablache contributed a Spanish song, "La Calesera" (encored), and Mr. Whitney Keller's song, "The King and the Miller" (encored). Some polkas, &c., were also played, almost tempting the promenaders to turn the "Promenade" into a *salle de danse*. Wednesday was a "Beethoven night," whose name, as usual, attracted a vast multitude of amateurs. The pastoral symphony was finely given. The concerto in E flat was played by Madame Julia Wolff with much spirit, point, and intelligence, and at the conclusion she was warmly applauded. The andante and variations of the sonata dedicated to Kreuzer was played by Mdlles. Claus and Carrena, who won much and deserved applause. The aria "Questa Tomba" was capably sung by Madame Lablache, and the song "Gold, Gold" by Mr. Whitney.

A GRAND INTERNATIONAL FANCY SALE AND BAZAAR, with a ball and concert, in aid of the funds of the Ladies' Art-Union and Female Art-Gallery, 42, Great Russell-street, British Museum, is announced to be held at Her Majesty's Concert Rooms, Hanover-square, early in October. The ball and concert to be held at Willis's Rooms, St. James's. The London and County Bank, 441, Oxford-street, will receive subscriptions and donations of 5s. and upwards, which should be paid in to the account of Messrs. E. Fuller and Co., treasurers of "The Ladies' Art-Union and Female Art-Gallery Fund."

SEDAN.—General de Wimpfen, who succeeded Marshal M'Mahon in command of the French Army of Rescue on the day it capitulated at Sedan, has just published, in Paris, his own account of the proceedings. General de Wimpfen is strongly of opinion that the army might, by a bold and sustained effort, have broken through the bonds that encircled it at Sedan. He declares that he had ordered such effort to be made, and gives the following as the text of the famous letter he addressed to the Emperor Napoleon at "a quarter past one o'clock, Sept. 1":—"Sire,—Rather than be imprisoned at Sedan, I have decided to force the line extended before the positions of General Lebrun and General Ducrot. Let your Majesty place yourself in the middle of your troops. They will hold it an honour to open a passage for you." At the same time that he dispatched this note, he sent orders to the Generals to prepare for the attempt. But, he adds, while he was preparing for the combat he suddenly discovered that the flag of truce floated over Sedan. He, nevertheless, called his soldiers round him, and told them to follow him and open a passage through the German ranks. With some 2000 brave men he seized the faubourg of Balan, and declares that, had the Emperor even then followed his counsels, a large portion of the army might have broken through. On one moot point in the history of the war General de Wimpfen supplies important and conclusive evidence. He states that when by the Emperor's orders he opened negotiations with Prince Bismarck, the latter demanded as the terms of peace an indemnity of four milliards and the cession of Alsace and Lorraine.

FORTHCOMING ART-EXHIBITION AT LIVERPOOL.—This year Liverpool will have an exhibition of paintings in oil and water colours in many respects superior to anything previously shown in the town. Formerly there were art-exhibitions under the auspices of public societies, but lately the only opportunities afforded of inspecting works of art have been provided by private firms or individuals; and though in some instances the collections have contained paintings of a very high order of merit, many of the works shown have been but little above mediocrity, and some of them mere contemptible daubs. In taking the requisite steps for an autumn exhibition this year, the Town Council has given a guarantee that the collection shall comprise only works of a high order, and, in that respect, that it shall be far superior to any of its predecessors. This exhibition is to include works of modern artists whose productions may have adorned the walls of some of the best metropolitan exhibitions in this present year, every picture of which will have affixed to it the price at which it will be sold. Four capacious rooms in the Free Library and Museum have been devoted to the exhibition, and the hanging committee are now actively engaged in arranging the places for the pictures. The exhibition, which will open on Sept. 4, will comprise about 200 productions of the leading artists of the day, many of them brought from the Old and New Water-Colour Society, the Dudley Gallery, and the Suffolk-street Gallery, and will continue open to the end of October. There will also be some very fine statuary. At present the arrangements are in so crude a state that it is impossible to give anything like a fair idea of the works sent from all parts of the kingdom; but when the hanging is completed a day will be set aside for a private view.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES IN IRELAND.—The Registrar of Friendly Societies in Ireland states that in the report which he has just made on the year 1870 the returns have been received from 233 sickness and burial societies, of which five were incomplete or unintelligible. The remaining 218 societies show an aggregate of 30,285 members, and a gross annual income of £33,855 12s. 2d., of which amount £10,421 9s. 6d., or nearly one third, is returned as having been "divided" among the members, and therefore withdrawn from the legitimate purposes of such societies. From loan societies thirty-five returns have been received, of which two had to be laid aside, as furnishing no available information. The remaining thirty-three societies represent an annual income of £27,310 8s. 6d.; but with respect to the majority of them the Registrar has to remark that, from the manner in which these accounts are presented, and the want of care in distinguishing income from capital, the difficulty of ascertaining their true financial condition has been enormously increased. Nine building societies have sent in returns. The gross income of these amounts to £30,327 9s., and their capital to £251,820 4s. 6d., to which one society (the Belfast Equitable) contributes no less than £84,438 17s. During the past year the Registrar has received several complaints from persons in Ireland who have been induced to become members of societies registered in England, but carrying on business in Ireland, without having been certified by him, and he promises to bring the matter under the notice of the Royal Commission for Inquiry into Friendly Societies, in order that a stop may be put to the illegal collection of subscriptions by societies pretending to be legally certified. A large number of societies in Ireland continue to avail themselves of the facilities for investment afforded by the post-office savings-banks, and the Registrar has endeavoured, by every means in his power, to encourage this mode of deposit in preference to the old custom of retaining large sums of money in the "strong box."

REMARKABLE ANCIENT MAP.

We learn from the report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records that the operation of taking facsimiles of national manuscripts by photozincography is continued. The second part of the series of facsimiles of the national manuscripts of Scotland has been published. The contents of this volume are of great historical interest, especially those portions of it which illustrate the rise of constitutional government in Scotland, and the first use of the Scottish dialect both in prose and verse. Among the documents is an ancient map of England and Scotland. It belongs to the Bodleian Library, to which it appears to have been bequeathed by the eminent antiquary Richard Gough, with the rest of his collections bearing on British topography, in 1799. It is assumed to be of the period of Edward I. The principal places are distinguished by churches with spires, or castellated buildings, those of less importance by simple houses, and in each case the buildings are coloured red. The surrounding seas are coloured green, and so are the rivers. The names of counties and tracts of country are inclosed in parallelograms with looped corners, and these, as well as all the principal names, are written in red, with the exception of London and York, which appear in characters of gold. The names, too, are all written along the map, or from north to south, instead of west to east, as is usually the case. The principal roads are coloured red, and the distances from town to town are marked by figures, also in red, forming, as Gough remarks, the greatest merit of this map, as being the first wherein the roads and distances are laid down. The county of Sutherland is distinguished by the figure of a wolf, with the legend, "Hic habundant lupi;" and a place called Colgarth, which is probably the extensive forest between Badenoch and Athole, by that of a stag, with the legend, "Hic maxima venacio." The only one of the Scottish lakes distinctly named is Loch Tay, on the borders of which is inscribed, "In isto lacu tria mirabilia. Insula natans. Pisces sine intestinis. Pretum sine vento;" miracles generally ascribed by Scotch writers to Loch Lomond. The pass over the Grampian Hills from Moray and Banffshire, now known as the Cairn o' Mounth road, is marked under the name of "Monthi colli;" and another, which is conjectured to be the passage through the Grampians which enters the mountains of Castletown of Braemar and comes out at the chapel of Glenshee, in Angus, and is called the Glenshee road, is named the "Monthie Capellae." The ferries across the Forth at Hales and Drapp are also specified, and so are the bridges at Perth and Achmore; but no mention is made of the bridge over the Don built by Bishop Cheyne, of Aberdeen, in 1329. The earldoms of Ross, Caithness, Moray, Sutherland, Mar, Buchan, Athole, Fife, Strathern, Lennox, Menteith, and Carrick are prominently displayed. The absence of any mention of those of Douglas and Crawford would seem to limit the date of the map to a period prior to the creation of the earldom of Douglas. Off the north-east of Orkney is a drawing of a vessel lying high and dry on a reef of rocks or sandbank, with the wreck of its mast and gear hanging over the side. What appears to be two cushions are hoisted overboard, clinging to one of which is a female figure, while that of a man is depicted near at hand, apparently rowing to her assistance in a boat. The Assistant Keeper of Records thinks it not beyond the bounds of reasonable conjecture to imagine that the subject of the drawing is the fatal end of the calamitous voyage undertaken by the young "Maiden of Norway," Queen Margaret of Scotland, to England to be married to the Prince of Wales, and that it may help to clear up the mystery that has always shrouded her death. Hardly anything appears to be known of this memorable episode in English history. Rapin and the few historians who mention her death say that it occurred in Orkney about September, 1290, and that it was occasioned by the hardships of the voyage. But Chalmers says that, although if she had died in Orkney she must undoubtedly have been buried in the Cathedral of St. Magnus, yet that he had caused every inquiry to be made in Orkney for some monumental stone or some traditional memorial of the time, place, and circumstance of the demise of Margaret, and that he had inquired in vain. In that part of the cathedral, however, where Divine worship is celebrated are four or five graves covered with white marble, or rather Norway granite, which tradition asserts are the burial-places of some Danish nobles. No inscription, mark, or figure exists on either of these stones, but it is not unlikely that the bodies covered by them are some of the Princess's escort that had been washed ashore from the wreck, and that she herself had never reached the land either alive or dead. The floating figure in the drawing appears to be that of a girl with a very childlike and gentle expression of countenance, and, with the exception of the hands (which are greatly exaggerated, as in the act of clutching at the cushion), of a graceful shape. The cushion may be one stuffed with cork, and intended to be used as a lifebuoy. The wreck is depicted as between Orkney and a line of coast marked "Norway" in large characters, and lies exactly in the track that a ship sailing between the two coasts would steer. At the northern end of the island of South Ronaldsay is a deep bay or inlet, at the head of which stands the village of St. Margaret's Hope, so called, as Macpherson conjectures in his "Geographical Illustrations of Scottish History," from the young Queen Margaret. On the North Sea itself is inscribed "Mare aquilonare sine termino," and in the middle of it is a gigantic representation of the whale engaged in mortal combat with its natural persecutors, the thrasher and swordfish. The forests of Inglewood and Denn, and the New Forest, the last of which is distinguished by a drawing of a large oak-tree, are the only forests distinctly specified in England; but Sherwood Forest is probably intended to be represented by the tree drawn in the map north-east of Nottingham. The Channel Islands are represented by three islands, with names Gersey, Gernesey, and Ancrowe. Besides these three islands with names, there are two others without names, which from their position are probably intended for Alderney and The Caskets. On the sea off the south coast of Devonshire, opposite Dartmouth, is written, "Hic Brutus applicuit cum Trojanis," the legendary invasion of Albion. Bardsey Island is distinguished by the inscription, "Bardsey ubi sunt Britonum vaticinatores," which again furnishes a clue to the date of the map. This island is supposed to owe its name to its having been the refuge of the last of the Welsh bards, and, as the Order of Bards may be said to have been extinguished at the subjugation of Wales by Edward I. in 1284, the map is probably not many years later than that period.—*Globe*.

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.—On Monday morning a boiler explosion occurred at Holin Bank Mill, Blackburn, Messrs. Cotton and Slater's. A new cylinder was placed in the boiler at the end of last week, and work was resumed on Monday morning. About half-past nine the boiler suddenly exploded, and severely scalded Mr. George Slater, one of the firm, and two workmen, named John Thompson and John Duerden. Mr. Slater was conveyed home and attended by a medical man, but he died at four o'clock, and the two workmen lie at the infirmary in a dangerous condition. They narrowly escaped suffocation in the engine-house.

A POLITICAL PICNIC.—Some Manchester Liberals, to the number of about 5000, had a political picnic, last Saturday, at Tatley Park, Cheshire. One of the speakers was Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P. Mr. Bright said he had, as every independent man occasionally must do, criticised the Government; but, viewing their conduct generally during the last three Sessions, he thought the Government might look the country in the face and say that they had at least endeavoured to do their duty. Legislation had been obstructed by the Tory party; but no one need be surprised at that. The Government had been dealing with questions of privilege, and it was not pleasant to the ruling classes that purchase should be abolished. It was still more unpleasant to them that every man in this country should be made politically independent. He was not himself anxious about the House of Lords, for it had not power enough to obstruct the progress of enlightened opinion in this country. It would live its day, though how long that day would be no one could tell. If, however, it became a great difficulty, it would undoubtedly have to be removed. What he was more anxious about was that the people should be properly elevated, so that they might be able rightly to judge of all great reforms.

IMAGINARY TRUSTS.

If a farmer, a tradesman, or even a gentleman of fair fortune, whose education had been more liberal than legal, having a wife and young children, were asked what he wished to do with his property at his death, he would, in nine cases out of ten, answer that of course he intended it to go to his wife and children. We met with a case a short time since in which a gentleman made this will:—"I give all my property to my wife and children." In a general way, such a testator means merely to express that these persons—namely, wife and children—are the only persons whom he has to care for; and for whose future welfare he is anxious to provide. While he lives the interests of all—himself, wife, and children—are one and the same, united and inseparable. His notion is, as far as possible, to ensure the continuance of that state of things; in fact, to let matters remain as they would have remained had he lived. Yet what ambiguity, what difficulty of construction, even what litigation, lurks under cover of these few simple words, "I give all my property to my wife and children." Suppose that we could interrogate closely the testator, what answers would he give? We should say to him, Is the wife to have a life interest only in your property, and your children to take it at her death? If that is your idea, then are you aware that your wife is bound to invest the capital sum in a fixed set of securities, all paying low rates of interest, and that any one of your children can by his or her next friend during minority, and of his or her own accord afterwards, file a bill against your widow for the administration of your estate by the Court of Chancery? Are you aware that if you have a farm, or carry on a trade, your widow cannot, under such a will, carry on your farm or trade, except at the risk of being held responsible for want of success in the enterprise? With regard to your children, do you intend that they shall ultimately each have an equal share of your property, whether they survive their mother or not, or do you intend the survivors of the mother only to take? Are you aware that your will may also mean that your widow and your children are at once to take the whole property as joint tenants? Probably the only answer which we should get would be that he, the testator, did not mean any one of these things; that he was only splitting hairs, starting legal quibbles, playing the part of the pettifogger; that he meant his widow, whose probity, prudence, and maternal love he had proved by many tests, to take everything, and to do exactly as she thought best; and that he only named the children because he did not wish to seem to forget them, and because he wished generally to remind his widow that she should continue that fidelity and devotion to them which she had always displayed. Surely we could not say that such a response was unreasonable or void of intelligence, yet the Court of Chancery has been very slow to admit the possibility or the wisdom of such an interpretation of these few and simple words. For example, in "Crockett v. Crockett" the testator wrote—"It is my last desire that all and every part of my property shall be at the disposal of my true and lawful wife, Caroline Crockett, for herself and children, in the event of any unforeseen accident happening to myself, which God forbid." Lord Cottenham upon these words said—"It remains to be seen what are the rights and interests of the widow and children in the fund—a question which, if it were to be decided upon the terms of the will, would be one of great difficulty, and upon which the authorities and opinions of the Judges have widely differed. I have, however, the satisfaction of finding that I am not in the present case called upon to decide this question. The widow, according to my construction of the will and the authorities referred to, had a personal interest in the fund; and, as between herself and children, she was either a trustee with a large discretion as to the application of the fund, or she had a power in favour of the children, subject to a life estate in herself." Upon which language of the Lord Chancellor Lord Justice Mellish has made the very pertinent criticism, that "if the difficulty of deciding was so great by reason of the vagueness of the words, which vagueness was probably intentional on the part of the testator, so as to prevent the difficulty from being decided, it could not be right to decide it at all."

We have been tempted to pursue this train of thought by a perusal of the case of "Lambe v. Eames," in the current number of the *Law Journal Reports*, to which case we are the more eager to draw attention because it seems to us to mark a favourable change in the mode in which the courts of equity are disposed to deal with these questions. In this case the testator, a retail shopkeeper, devised a freehold house to his wife, "to be at her will and disposal in any way she might think best for herself and family." The widow gave a portion of the property to a natural son of a son of herself and the testator, and the Court held that she had not exceeded the authority or power given to her. But we are not concerned with the precise point decided, but rather with the general comments offered by the Court on the mode in which cases of this class ought to be treated. Thus, Lord Justice James said that "he could not help thinking, when case after case was cited to us, that the Court had in its officious interposition exercised a most cruel kindness to the parties by imposing trusts, when the testators in all human probability never intended that there should be trusts." But Lord Justice Mellish hit the nail on the head when he intimated that the Courts had been too prone to interpret statements of the reasons which a testator had for giving the property to his widow into positive trust binding upon her. We can hardly doubt that the Courts have been too zealous to discover trusts where unlimited confidence was really intended, and therefore we look upon the judgments in the principal case as a kind of protest against the past, and an earnest of a different policy in the future.—*Law Journal*.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL appointed to consider the subject have agreed to a report recommending that the Corporation should accept the gift of Columbia Market from Baroness Coutts, upon the understanding that if, after ten years' trial, it is not successful, they shall be at liberty to appropriate the site to some congenial purpose.

NEW PHASE OF THE STRIKE AT NEWCASTLE.—A rather singular state of affairs has arisen in respect to the strike of operative engineers at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The employers had obtained about 350 men from Germany to work at Sir W. Armstrong's place at Elswick; but, after some squabbles respecting minor matters, the men turned out for more wages and the nine-hours-a-day system. This is not very different from the demands of the English operatives. A good many of the Prussian workmen left Newcastle, on Wednesday, for their own land.

THE REVENUE.—The Treasury returns issued on Tuesday show that the receipts of the Exchequer from April 1 to Saturday last amounted to £24,999,804, or about £500,000 more than last year, and were derived from the following sources:—Customs, £7,552,000; excise, £8,123,000; stamps, £3,876,000; taxes, £364,000; income tax, £1,286,000; Post Office, £1,270,000; telegraph service, £170,000; Crown lands, £135,000; miscellaneous, £2,223,804. In the same period the expenditure was £29,410,615. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £812,585; and in that of Ireland, £1,260,143.

INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.—By an Act which has recently received the Royal assent, the administration of the Workshop Regulation Act, 1867, is invested in the inspectors of factories, and we understand that the provisions of this Act will now be enforced. It will be desirable, therefore, that employers should take care that all children under thirteen years of age attend school regularly, that no person be employed beyond the proper hours, and that the Saturday half-holiday be duly given. The inspector of factories of the district should be communicated with if information is desired or complaints have to be made.

AMERICAN DRUNKARDS.—Here's another telegram from over the sea:—"Dairymple, member of Parliament for Bath, goes to America to study the treatment of drunkards." He need not come; we can tell him all about it. The treatment of drunkards in this country is infamous; they have to hold all the offices and do most of the hard stealing. Many of them are condemned to the pulpit for long terms; and newspaper editing—in America the most dishonourable vocation known—is done by them exclusively. At least one of them is compelled to write two columns a week for the *Times* Letter, and another one has to pay him for it. There is no limit to the impositions practised upon that interesting class, the drunkards of America; they are just trodden under foot by everybody who is sober enough to tread. If Dairymple, M.P. for Bath, can do anything for them he will find himself very popular, and will be expected to take a drink with every man he meets.—*San Francisco News Letter*.

THE MEETING IN PHENIX PARK.

The following opinion upon the legal points arising out of this meeting has been given by Mr. Isaac Butt, Q.C.:

"At the request of the Committee of the Am- neity Association I have carefully considered all the circumstances connected with the forcible dispersion of the meeting in Phoenix Park on the 6th of this month, and in accordance with their desire I state my views on the points on which they require information. I entertain no doubt that upon that occasion a very violent and unjustifiable outrage was committed, and that all persons who either took part in it or commanded it are both criminally and civilly responsible to the laws. I do not think that any question can be raised on any proceeding consequent on this, so as to assert the right of the people to assemble for any legal and peaceable purpose in Phoenix Park. There can be no question that the soil and the Crown. The Queen is the owner of the park, and her ownership is attended by all the incidents which the law annexes to property in land. It which the law annexes to property in land. It may be a very serious question how far her Majesty, or rather her Majesty's advisers, can use her power of ownership to the extent of excluding the public from the parks, and which they have had access from time immemorial. It is very easy to suggest acts of ownership, such, for instance, as putting the whole park under tillage, which would be justly described as an arbitrary interference with that which may be termed established popular right, but I know of no principle on which any popular or public right over the park could be assumed in a court of law. There are reasons for contending that constitutionally her Majesty would exercise her powers of ownership improperly if she were advised to deny her subjects free access to these parks; and after some ugly struggles it has been conceded, in the case of the London parks, that free access in the case of the London parks, and that the Queen ought not to use her right of proprietorship to interfere with meetings in the parks. I do not think a court of law can take any notice of this, and that the absolute ownership of the Queen over the ground in Phoenix Park must be recognised, and that they cannot determine any question as to the propriety of the mode in which that ownership has been exercised. The conduct of those who forcibly interfered with the meeting rests entirely on that ownership. There is no pretence for saying that the meeting was in itself illegal. The only justification for interfering with it was that it was held on private grounds, against the will of the owner of the grounds. The right of her Majesty over Phoenix Park is in this view just the same as that of any other proprietor over his domain; and that the right of the police to disperse the meeting was just the same as that of the servants of any private proprietor to prevent a meeting in his private grounds. It appears to me that the law upon this subject is perfectly plain. Every person who enters upon the ground of another against his will is a trespasser; if he enters by force he may at once be resisted by force, provided no more force than is necessary be used. But if he enters peaceably hands cannot be laid upon him until he is requested to retire and remains; even then no greater force must be used than is necessary for his removal, and if there be the person using it is answerable for an assault which he cannot justify. The necessity for a request is still stronger when the party is on the land by the license of the owner. In that case, before proceeding to remove him the owner must unequivocally withdraw his license. This he must do by desiring him to leave his grounds; after he has so desired him he must give a reasonable time to withdraw, and then only can he or his servants gently lay hands on him, using no more force than is necessary for his removal from the ground. Tried by these tests—according to every account submitted to me, including the version supplied by themselves—the conduct of the police was illegal. They had no right to attempt the forcible removal of anyone until they had first requested him to leave the park. They were bound, after this request, to allow a reasonable time for his compliance, and even they were only to use the force then which was absolutely necessary for his removal. It was the sense of these difficulties which influenced the law officers of the Crown in England to advise that, for practical purposes, there was no power forcibly to prevent a meeting of persons once admitted to the parks. I may add that the laws of England regard with peculiar jealousy the use of force to resist or prevent a mere civil trespass. Lord Hale distinctly says, 'That if a man kills another to prevent a trespass, even on his own house, he is guilty of manslaughter.' As to property, it is more plain:—'If A come into the wood of B and pull his hedges, and B beat him, whereof he dies, this is manslaughter, for though it was unlawful for A to cut the wood, it was not lawful for B to beat him; but either to bring him before a magistrate or punish him in some other way.' Passages from all the great writers of the law might be multiplied. All of them concur in the doctrine that 'whenever force is justified it was not greater than was reasonably necessary to effectuate the lawful purpose intended.' Even resistance to removal would not justify over violence, as was used in the park. 'Even a previous assault would not justify a battery, if such battery be extreme; and it will be matter of evidence whether the retaliation by the defendant was excessive, out of all proportion to the necessity or provocation received.' In my opinion, every policeman who used his baton for the purpose of driving the people from the monument was guilty of an assault; if the person struck had died from the blow he would have been guilty, at the least, of manslaughter; and if serious injury were inflicted, of an assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Any policeman who can be shown to have struck a blow is liable to an indictment. I do not think that, so far as the assault is concerned, their position as constables will protect them against the common-law principle, which would make them all responsible for the blows given by others. They appear to me to have been acting not so much in their character of constables as of servants of those who assumed the ownership of the park, and I think the charge made on the crowd must be taken to have been the common illegal act of all. The safer course, how-

ever, would be to indict each policeman for an assault upon the persons whom he can be proved to have struck. Civil actions may of course be maintained by any person assaulted against the person who assaulted him. These actions may also be maintained against any person who either expressly or impliedly commanded the assault. I have very carefully considered the letter signed by Mr. Burke, the Under-Secretary, in which his Excellency desires the Commissioners of Police 'to take the necessary steps to prevent the meeting,' without in any way pointing out or limiting the steps to be taken. Although in general an authority is not presumed to extend to do illegal acts, I think this general authority makes both Mr. Burke and his Excellency responsible for any excess committed by the police in the execution of their orders, on the same principle that railway companies are held responsible for illegalities committed by their servants in matters intrusted to their discretion. On the same principle, the Commissioners of Police are responsible in a civil action for the conduct of the police acting in the execution of their orders. I think that the Lord Lieutenant is liable to be sued in the Queen's Courts in Ireland for a wrong done to any subject of the Queen. I do not regard the decision of the Court of Common Pleas in the case of 'Luby v. Lord Kimberley' at all satisfactory decision the other way.

"Aug. 26, 1871."

"ISAAC BUTT."

LONDON POLICE COURTS.

THE SHARK AND GUDGEON CASE.—At Westminster, on Monday, William Simpson, described as a betting man, was finally examined before Mr. Woolrych, charged with being concerned with three other men in stealing £890 in notes, the moneys of Mr. John Orton, a farmer, of Rookery Farm, Towcester, Northamptonshire, on July 13 last year. Mr. W. D. Smyth, Rochester-row, defended. The prosecutor fell in with sharpers, who tracked him to Coventry, where, under the will of his father, he received £900. Of this he put £890 into a pocket-book, and he then came to London to purchase a business, and was robbed at the City of Gloucester Tavern, Chelsea, of the £890 by the prisoner and the sharpers he had met with. By the aid of photographs now used in prisons the prisoner was identified by prosecutor at the Liverpool Borough Gaol, where, with two others, he was undergoing imprisonment as a suspected person, waiting, in fact, for a victim who was coming from Rugby with some money; and, from inquiries instituted by the police, it appeared that the prisoner was well known at Manchester and Liverpool, and had been more than once convicted. Mr. Smyth contended that it would be unsafe upon the unsupported evidence of the prosecutor, after a period of twelve months, to send this man to take his trial. The prisoner had no doubt been in trouble, but that was no reason why there should be any prejudice against him. Mr. Woolrych said no doubt the prosecutor had displayed considerable simplicity and imprudence, but in the main his evidence was so satisfactory, especially as to the possession of a large sum of money, that he could not think of withdrawing the case from the consideration of a jury. The prisoner was then fully committed.

A MAN OF MANY NAMES AND MANY CRIMES.—At Westminster, on Tuesday, James Hawker, alias John and Samuel Press, alias Loug Sam, who has also been convicted in the names of Page, Walker, and Connor, was finally examined, charged with being concerned, with a man named White, now undergoing five years' penal servitude, in burglariously breaking and entering the premises of Mr. Geo. Anthony Smith, the Victoria Tavern, Piccadilly, and stealing therefrom about £15, and some jewellery. The premises were entered by a back window, and, a door being forced access, was gained to the bar and a desk where the money and valuables were deposited. At a quarter past three in the morning the prisoner was seen to scale a wall by Poulter, 199 B, who gave an alarm and joined another constable, and the prisoner convicted was apprehended in a cellar, £5 odd lying near him. Hawker was taken a week ago, by a detective of the E division, at a public-house in Portland-place, and identified by Poulter as the man who got off at the time of the burglary and as frequenting the public-house with the other prisoner and obtaining an insight into the construction of the bar and parlour. Robert Carter, a detective of the E division, proved that in July, 1865, prisoner received one month at Marlborough-street for felony; in August, 1867, twelve months, at the Old Bailey, for assaulting a postman and attempting to rob the mail; and he had suffered five terms of imprisonment, amounting to fourteen months, as a rogue and vagabond. He was fully committed for trial.

CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE BY PARENTS.—At Southwark, on Wednesday, George Daniel Knight, thirty, labourer, and Elizabeth Knight, twenty-eight, his wife, were placed at the bar before Mr. Benson, for final examination, charged with killing Thos. Knight, their son, seventeen months old, by depriving him of sufficient food and nourishment. Mr. William F. Barker, one of the relieving officers of Bermondsey, said that about six weeks ago the female prisoner brought a male child to his office in a sickly condition, and he gave her an order for the doctor, and at the same time he remarked that the child appeared to be starved and very much neglected, and he advised her to come into the workhouse, as she might get herself into trouble. She refused to do so, and went away. He saw nothing more of her until Saturday afternoon, Aug. 12, when he called at 40, Bermondsey-square, where he found the prisoners lodging in a dirty, miserable-looking room. The female prisoner was there under the influence of drink, and he found the child lying on a heap of rags on a broken-down bedstead. On lifting the clothes he was horrified at the sight of the poor child. The bones were nearly through the skin, which was of a livid colour. He immediately called in Dr. Coulahan, one of the medical officers of the parish, who took charge of the child, and witness gave the female into custody. Every attention was paid to the child, but it died a few days afterwards, and then the male prisoner was given into custody. Witness was present at the inquest on the 22nd, when the male prisoner told the Coroner that he earned about 12s. a week, and his wife 6s. to 7s. a week. Mr. Hugh Coulahan,

M.D., one of the medical officers of St. Olave's Union, said he was called into No. 40, Bermondsey-square, by Mr. Barker, when he saw the female prisoner in a back room, under the influence of liquor, and in a corner he was shown the child. It was in a terribly emaciated state, the bones nearly protruding through the skin. The surface of the body was quite cold, the pulse indistinct. The eyes were sunk and the pupils dilated. The abdomen was collapsed. There was extreme emaciation, and there were other symptoms of starvation. The child only weighed 13½ lb. It was a fully developed child, and ought to have weighed 25 lb. The child died in the workhouse a few days afterwards, and it was clear that the death was caused by starvation and neglect. He remembered the birth of the same child, and at that time he considered it a remarkably fine one. The prisoner had a little girl five years of age, which was a healthy child. Mr. John Marshall, M.D., 10, Bermondsey-square, said he had attended the child by virtue of an order from Mr. Barker. The female prisoner told him it had the diarrhoea, and he ordered medicine. Caroline Brown said the prisoner lodged in her house, 40, Bermondsey-square, about seven months. The man worked at Hartley's Wharf, and the woman could earn 8s. or 9s. a week if she liked, but she was constantly drunk. She left the child at eight in the morning without food, and seldom returned until eight in the evening, when she was generally so drunk that she fell on the bed. All that time the child was without food or nourishment. Witness had frequently given the deceased child food, which he ate ravenously. She told the prisoners several times of the neglect, when they abused her. Witness remembered the female prisoner bringing home medicine for the child, but instead of giving it to him she threw it away. Witness spoke to her about it, when she said, "She wished the child was dead, as she never liked it half so well as the girl." Witness added that she had frequently seen the prisoners at their meals while the poor child was crying for food. The female prisoner worked for a day or two and then got drunk for days together. The prisoners having been duly cautioned by the magistrate, the man said he did not know the child was deprived of food. His wife told him it had the diarrhoea. The female denied drinking or neglecting the child. Mr. Benson committed them to Newgate for trial.

ABOMINABLE ATTEMPT TO UPSET A TRAIN.—At the Ilford Petty Sessions, on Saturday, Henry Swanson and David Simpson, two young men, the sons of tradesmen living in the Victoria Dock-road, were charged, on remand from the 23rd ult., with placing a piece of timber on the Great Eastern Railway. The prisoners were both respectably dressed, and Simpson wore a pair of yellow kid gloves during the hearing of the case. Mr. Wildash, solicitor, prosecuted on behalf of the railway company; Mr. Wilson, solicitor, appeared for Simpson; and Mr. J. Beard defended Swanson. Police-constable Scott, 273 K, deposed that about one o'clock on the morning of the 23rd he was on duty at the end of the North Woolwich-road, and saw the two prisoners take up a telegraph post which was lying alongside the wall. The pole was about 30 ft. in length, and they placed it at right angles across the road. Witness removed the pole to its original place, and then went away a short distance, and watched it. The prisoners came up and lifted the pole on to the top of a 6-ft. wall, which separated the railway from the road. Simpson then jumped over the wall and dragged the pole on to the platform, so that about 7 ft. of it extended over the rails. As soon as he had done this he jumped back again, and the two prisoners went into an adjoining house. After he had removed the pole witness went after the prisoners. Swanson was apprehended, but Simpson escaped by the back door. James Bevan, a signalman in the employ of the company, said that the policeman called him from his signal-box, and he found the pole projecting over the line. A goods-train was then due, and witness turned the signal to "danger," and then assisted the policeman in removing the pole. The prisoners were committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court. They reserved their defence. Bail was accepted in the sum of £100 each.

THE ELTHAM MURDER.—The committee of the "Pook Defence Fund" have just issued large bills, which they have caused to be posted throughout all parts of Greenwich and Deptford and the vicinity, offering, in furtherance of the ends of justice, a reward of £200 for the detection and conviction of the person who murdered Jane Maria Clousen on the night of April 24 or the morning of April 25 last. The committee state that they are also prepared to do all in their power to obtain her Majesty's free pardon for an accomplice (not the actual murderer) who may give information leading to the detection of the perpetrator of the crime.

DISCOVERY OF SKELETONS NEAR BARKING-CREEK.—The workpeople employed at the City of London Gasworks, near Barking-creek, have dug up two adult human skeletons from the fore-shore of the river Thames, below high-water mark. The remains, which are well preserved, presented appearances of having been hastily interred within a short distance of each other, but there is nothing to show how long or by what circumstances they have occupied such remarkable graves. The spot, though on the Essex shore, is in the county of Kent, and Mr. Carttar, the North Kent Coroner, having had the discovery reported to him, has decided that it will be useless to hold an inquest. A medical man who has seen the remains thinks they have been buried for at least fifty years. In the immediate neighbourhood, and just below the opening made for the Dagenham Dock, are some interesting remains of an ancient forest, which appears to have at one time occupied part of the river bed. The roots and trunks of the trees, which are only disclosed at low spring tides, are in process of conversion into peat, and form an admirable study for geologists.

SINGULAR DEATH FROM A GUNSHOT.—An inquest has been held at Cheltenham on the body of Robert Supple, aged eighteen, who had died from the effects of a gunshot wound. It appeared

that Mr. Humphris, of Whitehall Farm, Andoversford, by whom the deceased was employed, drew the charge from a double-barrelled gun, and placed the unloaded weapon in a corner of his kitchen, at the same time putting away his powder and shot in a drawer in the same room. At dinner-time the deceased, who lived in the house, was missing, as was also the gun. Mr. Humphris went in search of the deceased, and presently found him hanging in the fork of a tree about 200 yards from the house, with his left arm so caught between the limbs of a tree that he could only be released after assistance had been obtained and the boughs bent back by main force. The fact that his hat was still in the branches above his head served to show that the deceased had fallen some little distance to where he was hanging, and it was evident that the gun had at the same moment fallen from his grasp, as it was upon the ground below, with its barrels in a direct line from the deceased's head. The charge of one of the barrels had inflicted a terrible wound on the man's head, and when taken down he had very slight signs of life. In his pocket was found Mr. Humphris's powder and shot, and there can be no doubt that the deceased had surreptitiously taken the gun and ammunition from the kitchen, and, being unaccustomed to the use of firearms, had been himself the cause of the accident. He lingered a couple of days. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

A POSTMAN STARVED TO DEATH.—Dr. Hardwicke has held an inquest at the Wynford Arms, Barnsbury, on the body of James Morgan, aged twenty-four, residing at 34, Wynford-street. Mrs. Mary Fletcher deposed that deceased was her son-in-law, and had been in declining health previous to his death. He had been in the employ of the General Post Office as a letter-carrier, and his hours of labour were from nine a.m. to nine p.m., one hour out of the twelve being allowed him for refreshment. Deceased's wages were 18s. a week, and out of that sum 6s. 6d. was paid for rent. He had to maintain himself and family on 11s. 6d. a week. He occasionally worked overtime at the Post Office, and by that means earned a few shillings extra. She believed that they had not enough to live on. Deceased was a man of temperate habits, and bore an irreproachable character. Her daughter died in childhood ten days ago, and that event made a deep impression on the mind of the deceased. On Thursday week, while he was stooping to lift an article of furniture, he suddenly fell forward on the floor and expired. He had not been able to attend to his duties for some time past. The medical evidence showed that the heart was much dilated and weak, and the cause of death was fainting, arising from the exhausted state of the system. The Coroner said there could not be a doubt that death was, in that case, in a great measure due to the want of proper nourishment being taken by the deceased. It was impossible for any man to maintain himself and wife on 11s. 6d. a week; and it was, in his mind, disgraceful on the part of the Post-Office authorities to pay any man such a miserable wage and work the life out of him. The Legislature had passed a Factory Act, which, no doubt, was a very good law; but they had neglected to look to their own Government offices, where men toiled like slaves twelve hours out of the twenty-four. He had no hesitation in saying that the deceased and his wife had fallen victims to starvation, and he urged the jury to append that fact to their verdict. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes, and that the said death was accelerated by the want of proper nourishment."

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—T. PINNICK, Southampton, butcher—W. W. DUNDAS, Colchester, Lieutenant in the 6th Rifles—J. D. PHILLIPS, Liverpool, cotton broker.
BANKRUPT.—J. C. F. ANGERSTEIN, Wellington, Barrack, St. James's Park, Lieutenant in the Army—E. V. MACKAY, Ryder-street, St. James's, gentleman—F. PARKER, Poplar, licensed victualler—C. MENTREY, Millwall, ship-chandler—C. P. BIGNELL, Portsea, potter—E. BRIDGE, Stockport, publisher—T. N. GRIGG, Cornwall, shoemaker—G. M. JACKSON, Morpeth, bootmaker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. MACGILL, Glasgow, wholesale tea merchant—J. BAIRD, Macintosh, pitoverman—R. BROWN, Edinburgh, furniture-dealer—J. BUAG, Airdrie, teacher.

TUESDAY, AUG. 22.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—S. COTTERELL, Halkin-place, Belgrave-square, horse-dealer—J. F. SELMON, Plymouth, corn-dealer—R. WATTS, East Stonehouse, beer-seller—W. WALKER, Louth, coal-merchant—H. J. MOULTON, Birmingham, picture-frame manufacturer.

BANKRUPTS.—T. FLETCHER, Poulton, City, gunmaker—T. W. ROSEGOOD and J. TURNER, George-yard, White-chapel, colour manufacturers—J. SIMMONS, Gilbert-road, Lower Kensington-lane—S. BODEN, jun., Manchester, small-ware-dealer—T. CAPAS, Willington, publisher—J. GADSBY, Derby, builder—W. H. HADEN, Dudley and Sedgley, iron-master—G. and I. HORSLEY, Beccles, coachbuilders—T. C. MITCHELL, Leeds, druggist—R. SIMPSON, Bradford, confectioner—G. F. STEWART, Bristol, horse-dealer—A. TINTI, Cardiff, outfitter.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. RENFREW, Glasgow, machinery agent—J. ESPIE, Milngavie, grocer—J. WALKER, jun., Patrick, bleacher—J. LONGMUIR, Kilwinning, contractor—P. THOMPSON, Glasgow, cutler—N. MILLAN, Greenock, spirit merchant—J. PRINGLE, Edinburgh, and Kelso, agricultural implement dealer—W. POLLOCK, Over-town, blacksmith.

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